

Ulster braced for weekend of disorder

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The population of Northern Ireland in general and Londonderry in particular is bracing itself for a weekend of marches and rallies that will bring a high risk of street disorder. Although the army and police have used concrete bollards and razor-wire to seal off the city walls overlooking the Catholic Bogside, nationalists will proceed with plans for demonstrations tonight and on Saturday afternoon.

Meanwhile, 10,000 or more Protestant Apprentice Boys are due in the city tomorrow for their annual parade to commemorate the 17th-century siege of the city. They will arrive against a background of Unionist anger at the Government's decision not to allow several hundred of their number to march along the city walls.

The western section of the walls was sealed off on Wednesday after a series of meetings involving the Apprentice Boys, Bogside residents and others, failed to agree on acceptable arrangements for the parade.

Senior RUC sources yesterday accepted that the situation was highly uncertain, but indicated that there were no intelligence indications that loyalists were planning a re-run of last month's Drumcree stand-off. Police thought, however, that republicans from the Bogside might have been planning to occupy the western wall to stop the loyalist march.

The police sources indicated they believed the Apprentice Boys had been well-led and presented a strong case during the dispute. They claimed that residents' associations, by contrast, were being highly influenced by Sinn Féin and the IRA, which they said was "milk the situation".

Leaders of the Apprentice Boys, together with senior Unionist politicians, yesterday

Marches take place against background of Unionist unrest, writes David McKittrick

met the Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, to protest against closure of the walls. The organisation's spokesman said they had "relayed the anger, sense of betrayal and injustice felt by the Apprentice Boys and by the wider loyalist and Unionist community." He said that Sir Patrick had "acknowledged it was an unjust decision, but attempted to justify it on pragmatic grounds".

DUP MP Peter Robinson added: "The whole of the Unionist community is outraged at the decision, which is a capitulation to Sinn Féin threats instead of defending those who are in the right." Yesterday brought appeals for calm from a number of sources, particularly churchmen. Dr James Mehaffey, Church of Ireland Bishop of Londonderry, said the Protestant community felt angry and frustrated. He said: "My view is that it's not as serious as some people would make out, but it is still very serious."

A leading Presbyterian minister said that he believed the Friday night march could help ease tensions. The Rev Robert Davey, the church's moderator in Londonderry and Strabane, said: "Perhaps it is better that people should be able to express their views in a sensible way, rather than feeling they have no other way to go."

"The organisers of the parade said it would be peaceful and we have got to take them on their word on this matter."

Siege mentality that will not die

DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

Folk-historians still relate, with some relish, the horrible conditions experienced by Protestants during the 1688-1689 siege of Londonderry city, the event which loyalists will celebrate this weekend.

Surrounded for months by a Jacobite army, thousands died of fever, dysentery and famine in the beleaguered city. As food supplies dwindled a cat came to be worth four shillings and a mouse cost sixpence; and a dog's head sold for half-a-crown.

But the Protestant folk-memory is that their ancestors endured the worst that the Catholic besiegers could inflict, and emerged triumphant. This weekend's march is not only a celebration of that victory, but also a declaration of the deep-seated Unionist belief that, 300 years on, they remain under political siege.

The Apprentice Boys, who organise the march, take their name from the 13 apprentices who closed the city gates against the forces of James II, thus precipitating the siege. The group is smaller than the Orange

Order and technically independent from it, but in practice the memberships of the two overlap. Their primary purposes – organising Protestant parades – are identical.

The August marches which commemorate the lifting of the siege are largely controlled by Apprentice Boys clubs. The most important of these are in the city itself, but branches exist all over Northern Ireland and, in a small way, in the Irish Republic, England, Scotland and Canada. The vast majority of the 120,000 members, led by a local newsagent and a community worker, are working-class Protestants who see themselves as making an important political statement.

Between the 1920s and 1970s Londonderry took on another political significance. Nationalists in the city complained that district boundaries were manipulated to ensure that the council remained in Unionist hands. The violence that ensued left scars on the city, but the 1990s saw a remarkable renaissance. But last month's return of large-scale riots has tarnished its new image, which will suffer even more if the weekend brings fresh violence.

Child whose smile belies the horrific violence she endured



First smile: Josephine Russell, 9, who survived a brutal attack on 9 July, smiles from her London hospital room in the first picture since the incident. Her mother, Lin, and sister, Megan, six, died in the attack. Photograph: Kent Police

The Stagers gets a grip and cocks a snook at rival

Michael Streeter finds the New Statesman revived

The row over Claire Short's attack on the "dark forces" of Labour has overshadowed a quiet but significant revolution at one of Britain's best-loved institutions – the *New Statesman*. For the "Stagers", as the magazine is affectionately known, that controversial Short interview is a sign that, once again, it is a political force to be reckoned with.

Other high-profile stories in the magazine recently have included the attack by Joy Johnson, Labour's former campaigns and media chief, on Tony Blair's "elaborate and obscure" rhetoric; and the interview with Peter Thomson, 60, the Australian vicar who inspired the Blairite view of politics at Oxford University.

Already the effects have been noticeable. The *New Statesman* now has a circulation of 22,000, a 4,000 increase in just a couple of months and a figure that may soon begin to worry its

right-wing rival, *The Spectator*, which has also built sales on high-profile scoops.

The two men behind the revival of the magazine – once essential reading for the political elite, latterly seen as rather dreary and sectarian – are now new editor Ian Hargreaves (ex-editor of *The Independent*) and new owner, Geoffrey Robinson, the multi-millionaire Labour MP.

Ironically, in view of the Short row, this is the same Mr Robinson whose Tuscan villa is at present providing a summer holiday venue for Mr and Mrs Blair. Yesterday, it seemed Mr Hargreaves was also away, but his deputy, Jane Taylor, was pleased with the latest scoop: "We're delighted to be at the centre of attention and

creating waves and getting people reading and thinking about the issues involved."

Scoops, in fact, are not necessarily the first concern of the "Stagers" – that is more good analysis and good writing. And the Short interview, one of a number with senior political figures, had, in effect, fallen into their laps. "The interview was originally going to take place on the day after the Shadow Cabinet election results and understandably she re-arranged it," said Ms Taylor. "Once she had done it, we realised that the interview would make news."

However, many see the run of headline-grabbing stories, coupled with a re-design two months ago, as a clear and aggressive sign of wanting to make the *New Statesman* a magazine

able to compete with success of *The Spectator* – which has broken a number of big stories, including the anti-German remarks by Nicholas Ridley which led to his resignation from the Cabinet, Lord Denning's belief in the hanging of Irish terrorists, the exposure of journalist Richard Gott's apparent KGB links, and the royal title-tattle revealed by A N Wilson after a private dinner party with the Queen Mother.

Such revelations have been fewer under the new editor, Frank Johnson, but he is pleased about the resurgence of his rival. "I think it is a good thing that it is doing well. I welcome it, there is room for us all. I think people will always buy good magazines, and good newspapers," Mr Johnson has reason to be magnanimous. The *Spectator* is about to announce circulation figures of more than 55,000 – the best ever. The "Stagers" still has some way to go.

Fears over safer blood bag costs

LOUISE JURY

A new bar-code system to prevent potentially fatal errors in identifying blood bags, launched this week, could cost hospitals millions of pounds to implement.

The system will be controlled by a new national computer network which the National Blood Service plans to introduce. But many hospitals will need new equipment costing up to £20m to read the new labels.

The blood centre which cov-

ers London and the South-east last weekend became the first to use the new computer, called Pulse, and the bar codes. But the question of how hospitals will fund the switch is unresolved, prompting fears that delay in a nationwide launch will hinder efforts to improve safety.

Philip Hunt, director of the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts, said: "Any improvement in the blood service has got to be welcomed. But it indicates yet another

cost pressure on NHS hospitals."

The new 14-digit system is needed because the current six-digit codes mean that most regional centres will be soon forced to use the same numbers within a 12-month period, increasing the risk of errors in handling. Giving patients the wrong blood in transfusion can prove fatal and a 1994 report in the *British Medical Journal* pointed to 111 incidents between 1990 and 1991, with six deaths.

The new standard was de-

veloped over five years by the International Society for Blood Transfusion (ISBT). But Peter Gibson, who has developed its use for the South Thames blood centre, said the decision to switch could not be made by the National Blood Service unilaterally. "It does mean that hospitals need to change their equipment scanners... As the NHS is funded by the public, it has to be approved by the Department of Health. That decision is some way ahead."

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

The Royal Mail claimed more staff refused to strike this week than was previously thought and yesterday renewed calls for a ballot on its proposed pay deal. A Post Office spokesman said nearly 18,000 staff did not join Tuesday's industrial dispute compared with an earlier estimate of 14,000.

The Royal Mail believes that the Communication Workers' Union should accept an offer which was negotiated at the conciliation service, Acas, but later rejected by the CWU executive. "It is militants on the union's executive who, far from being democratic as they claim, are opposed to letting their members judge for themselves the deal on offer," the spokesman said. Management is sending all workers a copy of the proposed deal.

But Alan Johnson, the CWU's joint general secretary, said: "It's a great shame that Royal Mail are putting so much effort into producing meaningless statistics instead of sitting down with the union and trying to reach a negotiated settlement." *Louise Jury*

Claims that evidence of life on Mars has been found by Nasa scientists were doubted yesterday by Belgian Nobel Prize-winning biologist Christian de Duve, an expert on life in the Universe, who said he has "serious reservations" about them. "The evidence as presented by the scientists at a news conference is far from conclusive," he said. "The chemical evidence mentioned... has been found before on other meteorites and never been used to claim that it is evidence of life. Just because organic substances were found on a meteorite that is supposed to have come from Mars does not mean they were formed on Mars by living organisms," he said.

"It is interesting. It is important. It is intriguing. But it is far from conclusive," Mr de Duve said. "The scientists were very cautious in saying that there could be other interpretations. But they did participate in the show which was obviously stage-managed by Nasa... Would this have happened if this was not an election year in the US?" *Charles Arthur*

Eurofighter 2000 will cost Britain an extra £1.25bn and will come into service three years late, a public-spending watchdog warns today. The National Audit Office said Britain's £15.4bn share of the four-nation project had risen by 43.7 per cent largely because of new weapons to be fitted to the fighter. But the NAO report on major weapons projects also reveals that the Ministry of Defence may get a £2.5bn windfall from savings on Trident, Britain's nuclear missile system. The report will fuel speculation that the Government has secretly cut back on the killing power of Trident, which was designed to destroy targets in Russia and the Ukraine during the Cold War. *Colin Brown*

Unions accused London Underground yesterday of risking passenger safety with a plan to use managers to drive trains on the Central and Waterloo & City lines to the City of London if next Tuesday's industrial action goes ahead. A memo seen by the rail unions outlines duties and states: "At this time there seems no negotiated end to the strikes so we are now charged with the job of doing the best we can with the resources available." The proposals were immediately criticised by the RMT rail union and the train drivers' union Aslef as escalating the dispute. Lew Adams (right), Aslef's general secretary, said that efforts to resolve the dispute would be more profitable "than engaging in stunts which put lives at risk". An LU spokesman denied any danger and said only fully qualified managers would take part. *Louise Jury*



Courts should stop sending so many women to prison for minor offences, penal reformers said yesterday. There were 2,313 women in prison in England and Wales at the end of July – a 68 per cent increase in the last four years – a report by the Prison Reform Trust says. But only 19.5 per cent were in custody for offences or allegations of violence. The director of the PRT, Stephen Shaw, said: "Every week around five or six women come into Holloway, Britain's largest women's prison in north London, for non-payment of their TV licence. One in twenty is a fine defaulter. The number of women prisoners who pose a grave danger to the public can probably be counted on the fingers of one hand."

Tower Hamlets Council is hoping for £2m compensation following the IRA bombing last February in Docklands, east London. Few of the families living near the South Quay blast last February had insurance policies; some families have been offered loans from the Government's social fund but many have been unable to take them up because they cannot afford repayments. The council has applied to Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, for a grant under the Criminal Damage (Compensation) (Northern Ireland) Order set up in 1977 to help those who had property damaged in Northern Ireland as a result of terrorist acts. There appears to be nothing in the order preventing compensation for similar acts in mainland Britain. *Charlie Bain*

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In the Sixties he was the living image of fashion. Last night a man was charged with killing him. Steve Boggan wonders ...

Whatever happened to Ossie Clark?

When the film-maker Derek Jarman first met Raymond "Ossie" Clark at the Slade School of Art in London in 1963, he was moved to write: "Decadence, I learnt, was the first sign of intelligence."

Within a few short years of that meeting, Clark's own brand of decadence had helped mould an entire generation.

His clothes were worn by Mick Jagger, Twiggy, Marc Bolan and Jimi Hendrix, his name was synonymous with the Swinging Sixties and his portrait - with his wife, Celia Birtwell, and his cat, Percy - painted by David Hockney, was hanging in the Tate Gallery.

One can only wonder, then, what the late Jarman would have made of the fashion designer's spectacular descent into hardship and obscurity three decades later, of his erratic life in a west London council flat and of his pleas for mercy after being convicted of assaulting a police officer.

Yesterday, as the world of fashion and its followers mourned his passing, remembering the golden years at Clark's boutique, Quorum, on the King's Road in Chelsea, the questions seemed difficult to answer.

In the intervening years, Clark, 54, had become bankrupt, had split from Ms Birtwell, his emotional and business partner until 1974, and had begun a gay relationship.

Kenneth Soeddon, 35, a neighbour in Penzance Street, Notting Hill, said Clark would become deflated when his career was discussed.

"I never spoke to him about his famous past," he said. "Whenever it was mentioned, he would become all reflective."

"His flat was organised chaos and artistically neglected. He liked smoking brightly coloured cocktail cigarettes. He would smoke them when he could afford them, and when he couldn't afford them he would just smoke any old cigarette."

Other neighbours described Clark as dressing like an ageing hippie and said their children would tease him about being gay, provoking him into teasing them in a good-natured manner. Like most of Clark's clients, Mick Jagger yesterday found his death hard to take. He recalled a "flowery zip-up jump suit" de-



Faded star: Clark at the height of his fame in the Sixties (above) and at a friend's funeral in 1990



signed by Clark for the Rolling Stones' 1972 *Exile on Main Street* tour. "Ossie was a great friend, and a wonderfully talented clothes designer," he said.

Ms Birtwell, mother of Clark's sons, Albert, 26, and George, 24, spoke of his "unique talent" and the good years they spent together.

"The years 1966 to 1974 were great years," she said. "He had the marvellous ability to produce these marvellous chiffon silks and snakeskin clothes, which everybody of my generation loved."

"He was a real star, but unfortunately it didn't last. I think he got broken by it all."

In February of this year Clark reached rock bottom, appear-

ing at Southwark Crown Court on charges of assaulting a policeman after crashing into an unmarked police car while apparently drunk.

He was convicted, but escaped prison "by the skin of my teeth", as he put it, after desperate pleas in mitigation by his counsel, Oscar del Fabro. "He was a famous designer in the Sixties," recalled Mr del Fabro. "He was the progenitor and founder of an industry that is worth many millions of pounds. His contemporaries have gone on to greater things, but he has fallen on hard times. You can see the tragedy of a reputation and empire which has fallen by the way."

So, what did happen to Ossie Clark? The answer may be found in a "correspondents' questions" page of the *Daily Mail* in April 1994 when, above a question on the origins of the expression "choc-a-block", a reader asked, "Whatever happened to Ossie Clark?"

Replying personally, Clark wrote: "After the excitement of the Sixties and Seventies, travelling the world, having my picture in the *Tate Gallery*, etc., things calmed down. By 1983 I was in financial difficulties and had divorced."

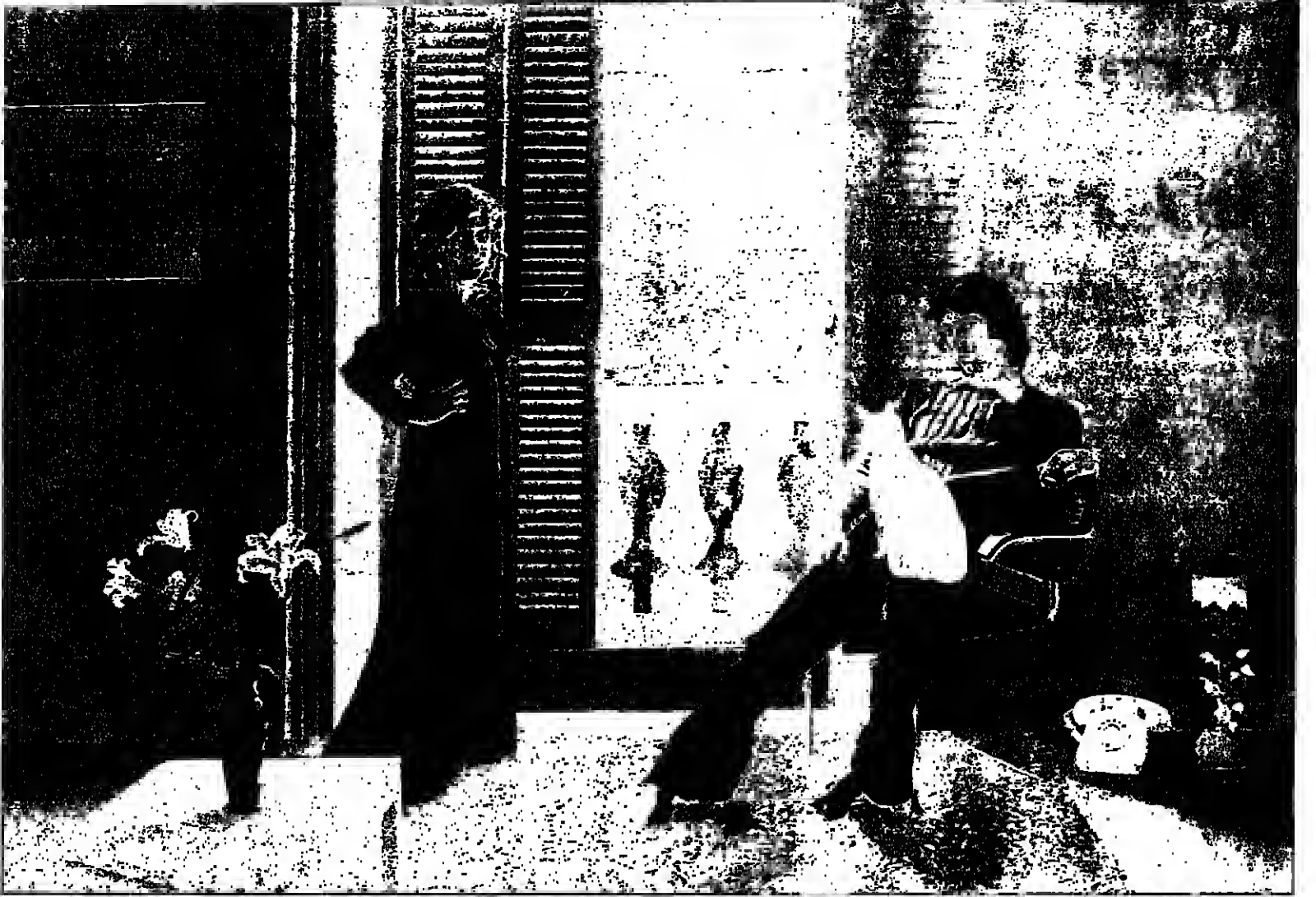
"Around this period I lost my love of the fashion world and restricted myself to designing three or four ball gowns or wedding dresses a year for friends. I also took up new interests - writing, drawing, music, walking and spending time with friends. My previous somewhat unreal lifestyle came to an end as I sought more genuine values."

"I had the same nps and downs most people have, but I enjoyed the next 10 years and felt privileged at being my own master. I feel this is the most important thing for a creative mind, even if it causes financial hardship."

"I've decided I'm ready to return to designing. I've had discussions about setting up my own studio, and I'm waiting for offers from potential patrons. Until then, I am enjoying producing exclusive one-offs for special customers."

And, according to neighbours, Bianca Jagger had recently called round at the flat for a fitting.

Obituary, page 14



Art of fame: David Hockney's painting of Ossie Clark, his ex-wife, Celia, and their cat, Percy. The work is on display in London's Tate Gallery

Designer who made London swing

TAMMIS BLANCHARD

When Ossie Clark graduated from the RCA in the mid-1960s, his work had an instant impact. His first collection, designed for the King's Road boutique, Quorum, sold to New York store, Henri Bendel, much as John Galiano's graduation collection sold to Browns of South Molton Street.

Mr Clark was the only student in his year to graduate with a first-class degree, and from the late 1960s to early 1970s, he was the driving force behind the

fashion explosion of that period. His label became as sought-after as Mary Quant. Mick Jagger's smock and trousers worn on stage at the famous Hyde Park concert in 1969 were by Ossie Clark.

Mr Clark's partnership with his wife, the textile designer Celia Birtwell, produced some of the most lasting images of the London fashion scene. His clothes were daring and controversial, always pushing forward the boundaries of fashion. A seemingly demure dress would have semi-sheer chiffon panels

over the breasts. His zip-up bikini jacket was one of the first to be made of snakeskin. And details such as stitching on shoulders were as much of a signature as Westwood's orb is today.

Mr Clark was a versatile designer, remembered as much for his romantic, bias-cut, floaty tunics and trousers as for his modern tailoring and ingenious use of Ms Birtwell's prints, mixed and mismatched with the eye of an artist.

To fashionable women of the period, Mr Clark's clothes still mean a lot. Affordable by to-

day's designer standards, they were worn and loved by thousands of women from Loodoo to his place of birth, Liverpool, where he opened a boutique called Cream in the early 1970s.

Ironically, while his later career suffered for his identification with a single period in fashion history, Mr Clark's time has come again, with designers like Gucci's Tom Ford looking to 1970s labels in search of the glamour he generated.

At this year's bi-centenary exhibition of the RCA, Susannah Handley, a tutor at the college,

worked closely with Mr Clark. She said: "He made the Sixties in fashion terms, as much as the Beatles and the Rolling Stones did in music."

Zandra Rhodes said yesterday: "Ossie Clark represents swinging London at its zenith. The things he did together with Celia Birtwell - were the flowering of British fashion. One collection with prints inspired by the Ballets Russes would have made him as big as Galiano is today if he had shown in Paris. Only the history books will give him the credit he is due."

Students warned re-takes could cost them £300

FRAN ABRAMS
Education Correspondent

Students planning to re-take their A-levels to obtain better grades may face higher university fees in future, the head of the admissions service warned last night.

Tony Higgins, chief executive of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), said students unsure whether to take a year off or repeat exams should think twice. Places would be available for most people if they were prepared to be flexible.

He warned that the £300 levy on all new students threatened by vice chancellors in response to budget cuts could prompt legal action for breach of contract from students. Although top-up fees look unlikely to happen in most universities, a number of elite institutions may start charging fees next year.

Among those which have already discussed plans are Birmingham University and the London School of Economics.

Mr Higgins said that stu-



dents who applied early and accepted an offer during the autumn might be protected from top-up fees by the law. Universities might find themselves in trouble if they imposed a charge after making agreements with candidates, he said.

"If an applicant has accepted an offer, even conditionally, then a contract exists. It may be a highly difficult legal question," he said.

After A-Level results are

published next Thursday, the clearing process, through which surplus places are allocated, will begin.

This year, 420,000 students are competing for 290,000 places, about 40,000 of which are likely to be filled through clearing. The numbers are almost identical to last year, Mr Higgins said yesterday.

At a conference to launch clearing, which begins on 19 August, he also highlighted new statistics which showed that more and more students were choosing to study closer to home. The proportion going to university in their home region rose from 42 per cent in 1994 to 46 per cent in 1995.

The change was partly due to financial pressures and partly because a greater proportion were mature students, who were likely to be married with children, Mr Higgins said.

Students from poorer backgrounds were more likely to study at new universities near their homes and to live with their parents, while those from the middle classes still went away to university.

Women were more likely to stay at home than men, the report showed, with eight out of 10 aged between 25 and 39 doing so. Students from ethnic minorities were also more likely to stay nearer to home. Three-quarters of all black entrants from the London area went to university in the same region last year.

More than half of all maths students decided to stay near home, while almost two-thirds of those taking medicine or dentistry moved away.

Mr Higgins said it was sad that social or financial circumstances were preventing some students from the benefits of living and working away from home.

"Perhaps it is equally character-building, spending three years living with your parents at the age of 19 as going away, though I suppose it depends on your relationship with your parents," he said.

The official UCAS listings of places available through clearing will be published exclusively in the *Independent*, starting on Monday, 19 August.

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Gene flaw may offer immunity to HIV

CHARLES ARTHUR
Science Editor

One in 100 Europeans has a harmless genetic flaw that could make them immune to HIV, the virus that causes Aids, according to new research. The flaw appears to be restricted to Europeans, say a team of US and Belgian scientists who made the breakthrough.

The results, described as "absolutely fascinating" by a leading British researcher into Aids, build on work published this year by a Glaswegian scientist working at one of the world's top Aids research centres, in New York. In March, Dr Bill Paxton, at the Aaron Diamond Research Center reported on a group of 15 people who, despite having been exposed to the virus many times, remained uninfected and healthy.

Now, further genetic tests on two of the 15 have found they have a flaw in a matched pair of genes, leading to cells in their immune system lacking a particular surface protein - which HIV normally uses to infect the cells. The matched flaw is reckoned to occur in about one in every 100 Western Europeans.

Its apparent effect is to make it impossible for HIV to infect them, said Dr Nathaniel Landau, who also works at the Aaron Diamond Center. His research on the two men - Steve Crohn and Eric Fuchs - is published in today's edition of the science journal, *Cell*.

But the immunity only occurs if both copies of the gene,

known as CCR-5, have the defect - known as being "homozygous". If only one of the pair of genes has the flaw, the cells have the surface protein and HIV can infect them, but the progression is much slower.

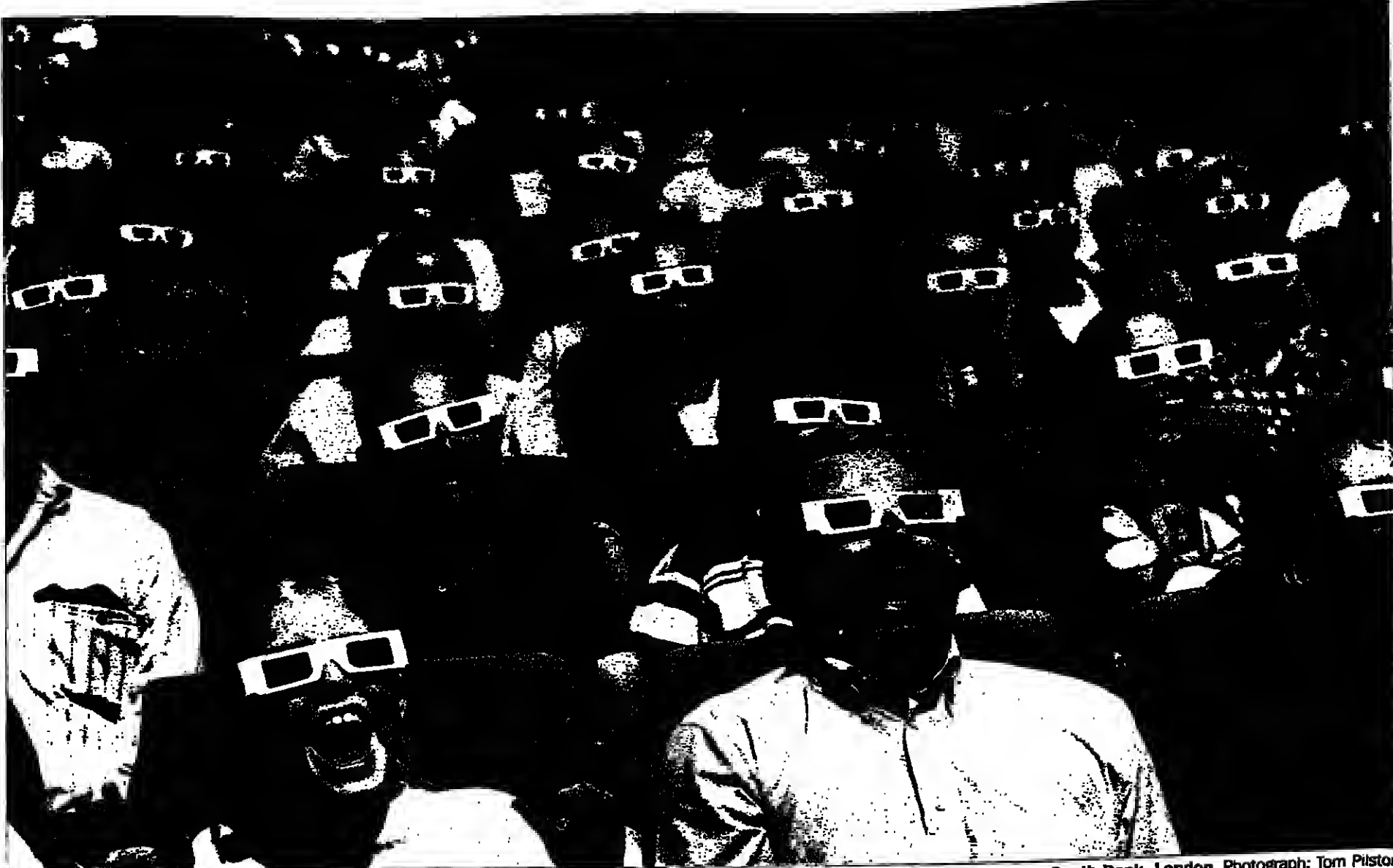
The result is that in homozygous people the virus, which needs to infect cells in order to multiply and become infectious to others, is effectively neutralised. People who were immune in this way could not transmit the disease.

"We have to do more studies in the general population, because so far we have only tested a few hundred people," said Sidney Ho, general manager of the Aaron Diamond Center.

Studies by a Belgian team led by Marc Parmentier in Brussels found that the gene defect was not present in 124 Africans and 248 Japanese, suggesting it is only found in those of European origin. An estimated one in five Europeans has one copy of the flawed gene.

"It's fascinating, because it provides us with a mechanism for the truth we have observed - some people have multiple exposures to HIV but remain uninfected," said Dr Brian Gazzard, clinical research director of the HIV department at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.

The cause of the genetic flaw is unknown, but it may be an accidental mutation. It consists of a "deletion" in a gene which instructs the white blood cells, known as CD4 cells, to make a protein known as CKR5.



Eye-opener: An audience experiencing life in depth at a preview for the September season of 3D films at the National Theatre on South Bank, London. Photograph: Tom Pileton

Arming the law: As victim's family express fury over inquest, concern grows over use of US-style weapon Police baton blow blamed for man's death

JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

The police were criticised yesterday for lacking training in the use of the new, long batons, after an inquest decided that a boxing promoter who died after being struck over the head with the weapon had been lawfully killed.

It emerged also that there has been an increase in complaints about officers using the American-style batons. The Police Complaints Authority, which has expressed concern over the lack of training, believes officers are more willing to use the modern weapons than the old-style truncheons because they are more effective.

The comments follow a verdict of "misadventure" by nine of the 11 jury members at the inquest of Brian Douglas, 33, who died in police custody last May. Family and friends of Douglas were described as "distraught" after the decision at Southwark Crown Court in London. They pledged to fight the verdict.

Police said Douglas's death was a tragedy, but added that the introduction of the baton had helped to reduce serious injuries to officers. Douglas sustained fatal head injuries after being stopped in his car for alleged bad driving in Clapham, south London.

Two police officers, Pc Mark Turley and Pc Paul Harrison, said Pc Turley had used the baton in self-defence, because Douglas had possessed a canister of CS gas and a knife. Douglas, the first person whose death was linked to the new baton, suffered "massive and irreversible" brain damage and

died in hospital five days later. Pc Turley told the inquest he had aimed a blow at Douglas's upper arm, but it slid over his shoulder and hit his neck. Several eyewitnesses told the inquest they had seen the officer strike a downward blow to Douglas's head. Three pathologists gave evidence that the fatal blow had been to the back, right-hand side of the head.

At the end of the three-week hearing, Sir Montague said: "There is a need for all officers who have been trained to use a baton to be taught the specific dangers, the after-effects and potential signs and symptoms

that can follow a baton blow to the head." He urged police to tighten procedures for identifying injured people in custody after Douglas spent several hours in a police cell before being taken to hospital.

More than 20,000 Metropolitan Police officers are armed with 22in, 24in and 26in acrylic batons, which were introduced in November 1994. The Metropolitan Police said they would consider the issue of training in the next few weeks.

Donald Douglas, Brian's brother, said the family was considering a private prosecution and a judicial review.

Questions raised over quality of training

Brian Douglas was the first person to die after being struck with one of the police's new long batons, raising questions about the safety of the equipment, writes Jason Bennett.

Since it became available nationally from May 1994, forces have gradually adopted the acrylic 22in, 24in and 26in batons, seeing them as more effective weapons than the old, short, wooden truncheons.

However, there is concern about the quality of training that officers receive in the use of these tools.

The Police Complaints Authority noted in its annual report last month that forces had opted for a variety of types of baton and that training varied from one force to another.

It observed that there were no standard instructions covering circumstances in which batons might be used, the way in which they were employed, or the way their use was reported.

Yesterday, the PCA reported they were having to deal with a growing number of disciplinary cases arising from complaints about the use of batons and warned that officers should draw them only as a last resort.

The annual report said: "The drawing of a long baton to deter a possible threat of violence could be misunderstood by a member of the public who might well see it as a potentially aggressive act."

"The design of some of the new batons also means that they can inflict more serious injuries."

The Metropolitan Police has the greatest number of long batons in any single force; about 20,000 officers are armed with them. An additional 7,000 have the 21in extendible batons.

They were introduced in response to fears about the rise in attacks against police officers and pressure on the Government to provide greater protection.

In the past two years, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has allowed the use of new batons and stab- and bullet-proof vests, while the use of CS is being tried out.

Superintendent John Rees, a Metropolitan officer, yesterday defended the use of the new batons.

He said: "I think you should remember why the batons were brought into the police service."

"Between 1990 and 1995 seven police officers were killed. In the period between 1994 and 1995, 3,700 police officers were injured."

"Since the introduction of the officer safety training package, of which the long batons are an aspect, that number of injuries has been reduced to around about 3,100. That is the equivalent of a 16-per-cent reduction in injuries to police officers."

However, the controversy is expected to continue as the number of complaints mounts.

Murdered Emma used in anti-gun campaign

MICHAEL STREETER

An emotive advertising campaign using a photograph of one of the children murdered at Dunblane is launched today by a group lobbying to make Europe a gun-free zone.

Emma Crozier is the central figure of the advertisement, which appears in *The Independent* today.

Above her picture run the words: "No more picnics, no more days on the beach, no more butterflies, no more chocolate cake, no more bedtime stories, no more teddy bears, no more kisses good night... No More Guns."

The campaign is being run by the Society Against Guns in Europe (SAGE). It is timed to coincide with the publication on Monday of the controversial Home Affairs Select Committee report on firearms, in which the Conservative members are believed to be opposing against a ban on handguns. The Cullen Report on the Dunblane massacre, which will make rec-



Emma Crozier: Gun victim

This move to harder and more emotional advertisements is a deliberate policy by SAGE to concentrate public attention on the issue of a total ban on privately owned weapons.

The general secretary, Tobias Bernstein, feels that other anti-gun groups are misguided in lobbying solely on banning handguns - used by the Dunblane killer, Thomas Hamilton. "All guns kill; there is no need for private gun ownership," he said. Mr Bernstein, who funds the organisation through a family trust, says it has 1,900 members, with "thousands" of people expressing interest.

A spokesman for the British Association for Shooting and Conservation said that the emotive advertisements would attract public sympathy.

But he added: "The 1 million people who practise shooting sports will see this as... high-profile, powerful advertising costing a great deal of money, used against them - the very thing the often-quoted 'gun lobby' is accused of."

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According to Sir Bernard Ingham, there is no perfect holiday destination for political leaders, and they should not be

all day and James walking the dog in Cornwall

pretentious choice. It's where all the twits go, and I wouldn't be seen dead there. I would have reservations about going to Europe at all, the thought

It is a far cry from the starker sojourns of Old Labour, when Lord Wilson made, pipe

The Majors are leading the French team this week, at the

Liberal Democrats, who will set off today with his family for their holiday home in Burgundy. Margaret Beckett is on a caravan site with her family. John

plans to travel around Wales where he may hump into Ann Widdecombe on a five-day walking holiday.

But the parties have not let politics behind in the holiday season. Mr Prescott launched

throats," a source reported said. As Mr Blair closed his copy of the *New Statesman* he probably could not agree more.

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هكذا من الاصل

Puritanism in the movies: Presidential election pressures prevent distribution of British director's version of film in US



Too sexy for the States: Dominique Swain (left) plays the eponymous heroine in Adrian Lyne's (centre) *Lolita*; James Mason as Humbert opposite Sue Lyon in Stanley Kubrick's 1962 film version of the 1955 novel

Correctness fears keep Lolita under wraps

MARIANNE MACDONALD
Arts Correspondent

A new film of Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita* by the British director Adrian Lyne may have fallen victim to the pressure for political correctness in Hollywood during election year.

He has been unable to find a United States distributor six months after completing filming, with Jeremy Irons playing the lead opposite an unknown 14-year-old schoolgirl from Malibu, Dominique Swain.

Mr Lyne, who directed the sexually explosive movies *9½ Weeks*, *Fatal Attraction* and *Indecent Proposal*, this week suggested that the controversial plot - about a college professor's obsession with the young daughter of his landlady - meant it was "doomed from the start".

The novel was filmed in 1962 by Stanley Kubrick - whose version of *A Clockwork Orange* was banned because of its disturbing violence - and starred James Mason as Humbert Humbert and Sue Lyon as Lolita.

Mr Lyne told *Entertainment Weekly* that he wanted to film a new version of *Lolita* because the original script, also by

Nabokov, was so terrible. "Nabokov's screenplay is as bad as the novel is magnificent," he said.

His search for the perfect script saw Harold Pinter and David Mamet try their hand at the adaptation before the job

went to Stephen Schiff, who writes for the *New Yorker*. The director also wanted to make a more faithful adaptation of the 1955 novel, as a result some of the sexual scenes were so provocative that he used a body double instead of his child star.

But the problem is getting it shown. Distributors are fighting shy of the £31m movie following the withdrawal of the Oscar-winning producer Richard D. Zanuck from the project: he had lent it respectability in the eyes of the Hollywood corporations.

Almost 2,000 teenage hopefuls turned up to audition for the part of Lolita, but Mr Lyne's difficulties are compounded by the critical comments of the original child star, Lyon. Now 49, she says that playing the schoolgirl subject of an older man's paedophile fantasies ruined her life. "My destruction as a person dates from that movie. Lolita exposed me to temptations no girl of that age should undergo. I defy any pretty girl who is rocketed to stardom at 14 in a sex oymphet role to stay

on a level path thereafter." Ms Lyon went through three broken marriages, took drugs and suffered manic depression. She now works as a secretary.

Her attacks adds fuel to the political-correctness campaigners and the far right in America, who believe Hollywood films should promote family values, not explore paedophilia and violence.

One of their biggest supporters is the Republican presidential candidate, Bob Dole. It is this pressure to rein in Hollywood which could damage the film's chances of being released - at least until after November's election.

"No one wants to be seen handling a film like that when Dole is leading the crusade to eliminate violence and sex in the movies," says Matt Mueller, editor of *Premiere* magazine. "Part of the problem is that Lyne is contractually bound to deliver an 'R' rating. In America that means that anybody under 17 can see it if they are accompanied by an adult."

He believes that to get it Lyne may be forced to cut some of the more sexually explicit scenes - one is reputed to show Swain lolling out on a bed and another shows her and Irons in bed - to get a distribution deal. "Someone will pick up the film, I'm sure, but it could mean waiting until after the election. If Clinton gets in, it would not be so much of a problem," Mr Mueller added.

Author's family sues makers of steamy Tarzan film

LOUISE JURY



Jungle love: Johnny Weissmuller as Tarzan, with Jane. The actor starred in 19 films between 1932-1948

In these days of sophisticated mores, when the "Me Tarzan, you Jane" school of social etiquette is verging on the politically incorrect, there are some people who still wish to defend the apeman's unblemished reputation.

In a bid to keep Tarzan's image "wholesome", the descendants of his creator, author Edgar Rice Burroughs, are suing the makers of a pornographic film and CD-Rom for vulgarising the jungle hero's image.

It cannot be denied that in the original 26 novels starring the Tarzan of the Apes character - and in the even more famous films - he strutted around

simply dressed and was prone to clutching jungle-mate Jane to his manly chest, claiming to protect her.

But he did not indulge in fellatio, sodomy, group sex or even straightforward intercourse, and the family of Edgar Rice Burroughs, who own the company which controls the Tarzan image, maintain he should not.

The family has accused *Jungle Heat*, a porn movie, of being "nothing more than a lewd, vulgar and highly offensive film".

While the character in the movie, also released in a French version entitled *Dardzan: The Humiliation of Jane*, is called Tarzan only once, he goes by Tarzan's other name, Ape Man,

and shares many Tarzan traits, according to the family's legal suit.

"For example, Ape Man wears a loin cloth and carries a knife, he lives in the jungle and repeatedly emits the famous and unique Tarzan yell, he swings from vine to vine in the jungle, he rescues Jane from peril and he is accompanied by his animal friend, Cheeta," it said.

Burroughs, who died in 1950, founded the family corporation, Edgar Rice Burroughs Inc. in 1923, to control the image of Tarzan, who first swung from the trees in 1912.

The company is based in Tarzana, California, the community which was named after the character in 1930. Since then, it has licensed daily

comic strips, 46 feature films and more than 150 television shows in 72 countries.

But it did not approve the film, whose video jacket claims to "explore in exhausting detail the steamy passion that blazed between Jane and her Jungle King".

The suit names Ultimate Video of Chatsworth, California, Excalibur Entertainment of Fullerton, California, Thorn Distributors of Hauppauge, New York, and director Joe D'Amato of Italy.

The Edgar Rice Burroughs Inc corporation wants the makers of *Jungle Heat* to pay unspecified damages, to stop the distribution of the film and to recall and destroy all copies of the movie.

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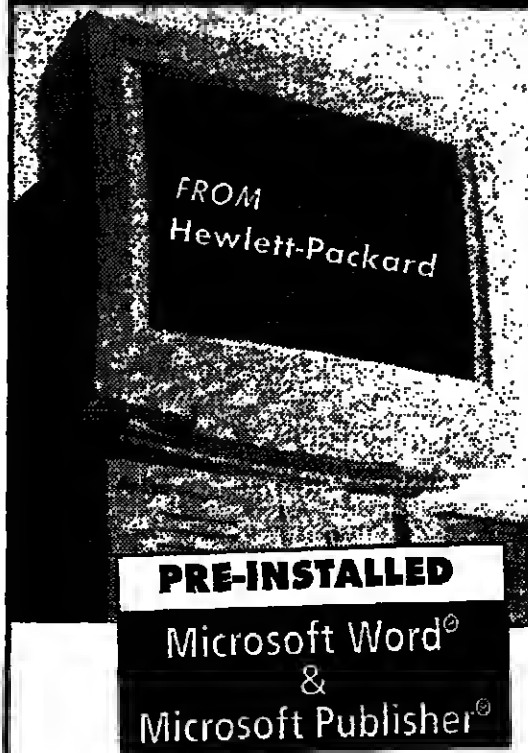
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international

Israeli attack: Prospects for cease-fire look bleak

Stalemate as trust dries up in Lebanon

ROBERT FISK
Brachit, southern Lebanon

Somewhere inside the great earthen Israeli artillery compound above this smashed village lies the first reason why the five-power Lebanese ceasefire monitoring committee – meeting 20 miles east of here on the Mediterranean coast yesterday – will fail in its endeavours.

On Tuesday, two Hizbollah mortar rounds landed on the Brachit compound. The first wounded two Israeli soldiers who scrambled into a Merkava tank for cover. The second landed on the roof of a bunker, killing instantly an Israeli medical officer about to go to the aid of the wounded men. But afterwards, everybody – the Israelis, the UN peacekeepers and the villagers of Brachit – admitted they had not the slightest idea from where the mortars had been fired.

Just a day earlier, the Hizbollah's local television station in Beirut had shown pictures of what it called a "new-style" mortar that could not be detected. The broadcast revealed no more about this supposed wonder-weapon, but in Brachit it raised some questions. How, for instance, would the US-Israeli-Franco-Syrian-Lebanese monitors discover the provenance of Tuesday's attack? It was, after all, an offensive that, under the April truce agreement between the Hizbollah and the Israelis, might have been within the rules so long as the mortars had not been fired from a civilian area.

Under this same ceasefire, both sides had promised to consult the ceasefire committee before taking retaliation. But Israel did not wait before taking its revenge yesterday. Before dawn, Israeli jets bombarded a Hizbollah radio transmitter and a fuel dump near the eastern Lebanese city of Baalbek, causing no casualties but provoking a storm of rhetoric from the

guerrilla movement. The air-raid was a "violation of all international rules" which, the organisation said, would prompt Hizbollah's own retaliation.

The Israelis trumpeted a strike against "terrorists", failing to mention that the radio station opened its routine transmissions on schedule, three hours later. In Brachit, villagers noted with relief that Israel's revenge had been cast 70 miles to the north.

In the UN's headquarters at Naqoura on the Lebanese-Israeli border, meanwhile, the Israelis, Syrians, Lebanese, Americans and French of the ceasefire committee managed to sit down together – to agree that they would be meeting again.

Such is the dangerous nature



Benjamin Netanyahu: will not let soldiers be 'punch bags'

of the south Lebanon truce that not a single reporter was allowed near the UN camp, let alone in to the conference room where the generals and colonels had met with cold courtesy just before midday. The US delegate, David Greenlee, shook hands with Jean-Michel Gausson of France, but Syrian Brigadier General Adnan Baloul and Israeli Brigadier General David Tsur pointedly refused such rituals.

The Syrians have no trust in Israel's new government, and they had already refused an offer of an Israeli escort to

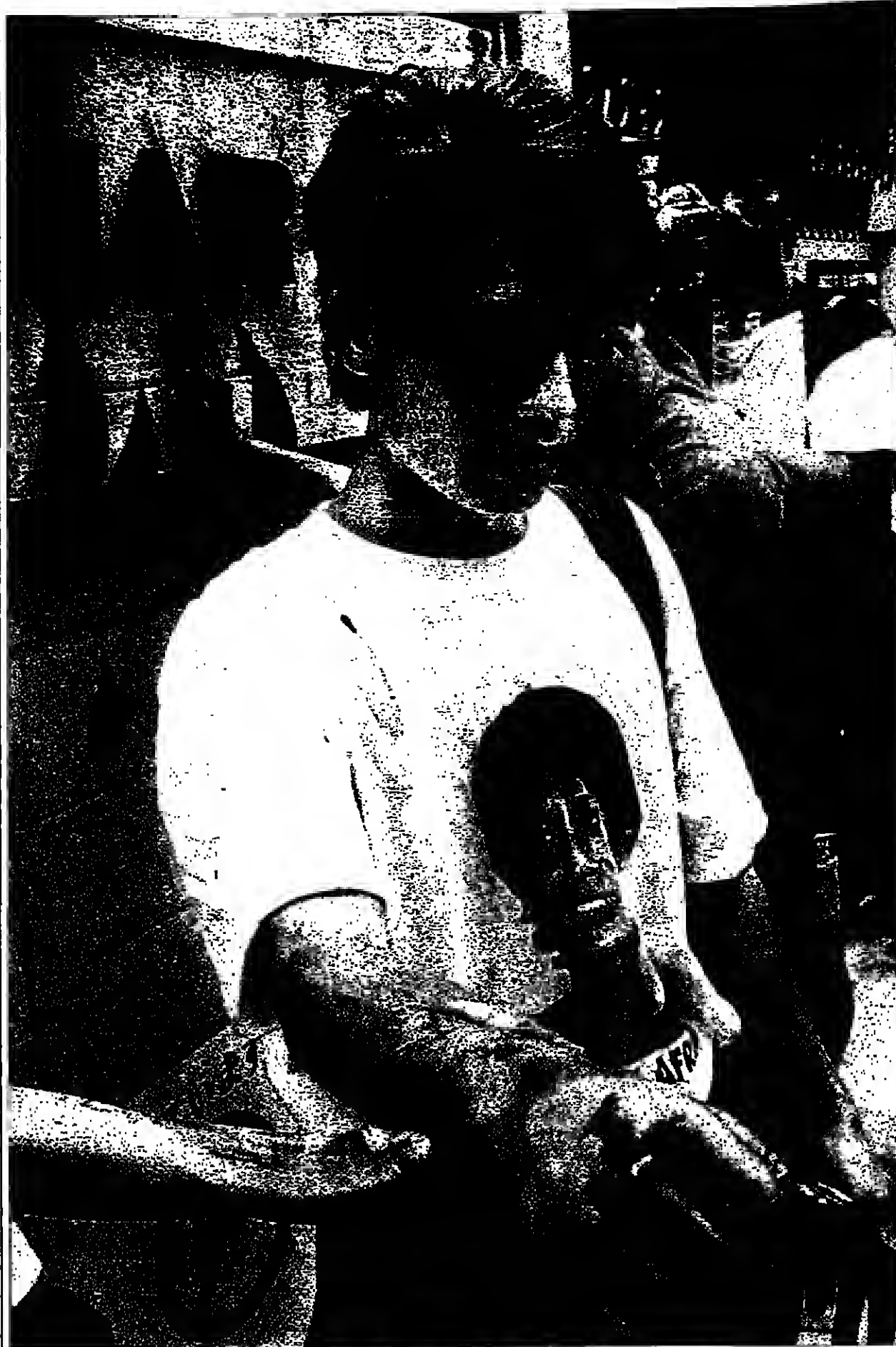
Naqoura through Israel's occupation zone in Lebanon. They arrived with intelligence advisers and Lebanese delegates, in a UN helicopter from Beirut. When the one-hour meeting finished, they lunched in the Irish UN canteen.

The Israelis drove back to their own country while Mr Greenlee flew to Israel by private helicopter and then back to an equally sparse office in Cyprus. No practical decisions had been taken about the methods of monitoring the guerrilla war in southern Lebanon.

Nor did the UN – deeply sceptical about the work of the five-power committee – offer any advice. After 18 years in southern Lebanon, the UN have, after all, learned to recognise a dead horse when they see one. And the ceasefire committee is an animal doomed to expire almost as soon as it tries to start work. The Israelis and Americans see the institution as a method of disarming the Hizbollah; the Syrians want it to legitimise the Hizbollah as a resistance organisation.

The French and the Lebanese will have to watch impotently as this battle is fought out in the former UN commander's conference room. Since the Israeli bombardment of Lebanon ended last June, following the Israeli massacre of refugees at the UN post at Qana, 10 Israeli soldiers – including the medical officer who died on Tuesday – have been killed. At least the same number of Hizbollah have died, and already both sides are re-writing the ceasefire terms.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the new Israeli Prime Minister, has promised that Israeli soldiers occupying south Lebanon will not be allowed "to turn into a punching bag for terrorists", while the Hizbollah says it will fight Israeli occupation "until liberation". The UN, it should be added, has wisely asked its headquarters in New York for more armoured vehicles.



Body and soul: A Burmese pro-democracy activist on the verge of fainting after smearing his blood on the Burmese embassy in Bangkok yesterday to mark the fatal crackdown in Rangoon eight years ago

Protesters mark Burmese repression in blood

DEBORAH CHARLES
Reuter

Bangkok — Exiled Burmese dissidents shed their own blood and staged hunger strikes to mark the eighth anniversary of one of the bloodiest days in a failed pro-democracy uprising in Rangoon.

Several members of a group cut themselves during a protest in front of the Burmese embassy in Bangkok and smeared their blood on the embassy wall.

Standing next to a banner saying "The blood stains of 8-8-88 can never be sponged out", the exiles, wearing red headbands, commemorated the events of 8 August 1988, when hundreds of people were killed by government troops as they demonstrated for democracy.

"The 8-8-88 pro-democracy uprising earned much support from the international community and was recorded in history," one of the protesters said. "Nevertheless, the military regime has still remained in power and continued to rule the country, oppressing the people."

Dissidents called for stronger international pressure on Burma, which has drawn Western condemnation for a recent crackdown on the National League for Democracy party.

In Rangoon, witnesses said there was no abnormal activity on Mahabandoola Street in front of town hall, where most of the people were killed as troops opened fire on demonstrators eight years ago.

But Rangoon residents were unnerved by explosion-like sounds in the capital. Speculation swept the city that bombs had been set off to mark the anniversary of the uprising.

The anniversary came as Amnesty International released another report condemning Burma's military government for human rights abuses and said it was seriously concerned about the practice of forced labour in the country.

Amnesty said Burmese military authorities were responsible for widespread human rights violations in ethnic minority areas including rape, torture and summary executions.

Germany's mission imperative

IMRE KARACS
Bonn

A "bunch of extremists and fanatics" in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic party were organising a boycott yesterday of the Hollywood blockbuster *Mission Impossible*, and all because of the religious affiliation of its main star, Tom Cruise.

That, at least, was the considered view from the Hamburg headquarters of the Church of Scientology, under whose influence Cruise was said to have fallen. The German government is trying to ban Scientology, and Mr Kohl's youth wing,

the Christian Union, decided to strike the first blow against the "totalitarian organisation".

The tactic of Scientology is to connect it with the notion of success," said Burkhard Remmers, head of the Christian Union in the state of Lower Saxony. "That is aided by the many US stars who go on publicity tours in Europe. But Scientology does not mean success."

That has certainly not been Cruise's experience, whose latest box-office hit opened in Germany last night. Its low-key launch has been boosted by the young Christians' publicity campaign, virtually guaranteeing good takings through the summer doldrums. Party members planned to stand in front of cinemas, handing out leaflets denouncing the "dangerous wheedling and dealings of the Scientology organisation".

There is a fad going on in Germany," said Franz Riedl, a spokesman for the Church. "Politicians who can't make waves in other ways use Scientology to grab headlines."

That certainly appears to be the case this time, but concern in official German circles about Scientology, which has an estimated 30,000 members in Germany, is deep-seated and genuine. Earlier this year, Bonn's family ministry issued a

pamphlet accusing Scientology, a Californian-based Church which believes in the fulfilment of the individual as a spiritual being, of trying to undermine democracy in a bid for world domination.

On Wednesday, Johannes Gerster, head of the Christian Democratic Union in Mr Kohl's home state of Rhineland-Palatinate, called for Scientologists to be banned from government jobs. "We firmly believe that Scientology has unconstitutional goals," said Mr Gerster, who unveiled a 10-point list of proposed curbs on Scientology to be submitted to the party's national conference in the autumn.

Capitalist cockroaches scuttle through China's open window

PEKING DAYS

There comes a point when one must accept defeat in the struggle against the massed armies of Mother Nature, and that point came yesterday. After a three-year war of attrition, I called in the professionals.

Enter Hu Shuqing, cockroach exterminator by appointment. For seven years, Mr Hu has been in charge of roach riddance in the embassies and diplomatic compounds of Peking, (which may or may not have been a promotion from his previous job as gardener at the British embassy).

So yesterday morning, Mr Hu was summoned to the *Independent's* modest apartment. He came equipped with the trappings of an emergency service executive – mobile phone and pager. His subordinate swiftly took up a front line position in the kitchen – face-mask at the ready, a canister of imported French and Dutch poison strapped to his back, and the spraygun at hand.

The hot and humid weather of recent weeks has encouraged a breeding frenzy among Peking's cockroaches, and expatriates are everywhere bemoaning the audacity of these unwelcome house-guests. But, according to Mr Hu, we have only ourselves to blame. "In the 1940s and 1950s there were no cockroaches in China. The

roaches are brought by the foreigners in ships and in containers. Chinese homes do not have roaches, although some of the restaurants do have," explained Mr Hu.

Thus there is an added hazard for Chinese people working for foreigners. Cockroaches have been found in the homes of people working for the Diplomatic Services Bureau, the Chinese government-run department which provides local staff for embassies, diplomats and foreign journalists. Mr Hu admitted. "Because the DSB employees work in the foreigners' flats and offices, the cockroaches can creep into their bags, pockets, hats and winter overcoats, and get taken home. It only takes two roaches to start breeding," he said.

Like so many sensitive diplomatic issues, the question of cockroaches provokes yet more cultural friction between China and the rest of the world. Westerners in China spend their time complaining that in no other country have they shared an apartment with so many pests. But over the past three years Chinese people, just like Mr Hu, have repeatedly told me

that only foreigners have roaches in their homes. After China launched its open door policies in 1980, the leadership famously warned that "if you open a window, some flies are bound to come in". Not only flies, it seems.

With between one and five extermination call-outs per day, Mr Hu is now a self-styled expert on the habits of the Peking cockroach. "If there is no food then they will eat the wool in carpets and clothes. If no wool, then they eat paper or wood. The more things you own, the more roaches you will have," he said, seeming to suggest that cockroaches were a just punishment for bourgeois capitalist over-consumption. The British embassy in Peking had a bad roach problem, he added.

Cockroaches are no trifling adversary. American and Chinese scientists, Mr Hu said, had shown that a roach carried about 100 viruses and had no known natural predators. Small cockroaches could creep into children's ears and noses. "The more you try to take them out, the deeper they creep inside," he warned. "The only good thing about cockroaches is that

they can resist cancer. If you inject cancer into a cockroach then all those viruses will destroy the cancer. But the scientists have not found a way to isolate this resistance."

Roches are territorially ambitious. It is unwise to take a holiday, as many people like me are discovering as they return to Peking after a summer break. "The cockroaches in the neighbourhood will move in if you are absent. If there are people around they are more frightened." Their only bit of obliging behaviour was that they would die "in visible places", Mr Hu promised.

So how, I wondered, did the roach man view his likely career progression? The outlook was not that promising, lamented Mr Hu. He should have changed jobs two years ago, because the exposure to chemicals was not good for him. (That said, Mr Hu had remained safely in the corridor outside the apartment while his assistant with the spray-gun took on the enemy inside.)

The trouble was that China's booming economy provided more enticing job opportunities. "There is just no one to replace me," Mr Hu said. "They would all rather work in the embassies."

Teresa Poole

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Rebels 'dominate' Chechen capital

Fierce battles continued yesterday between Chechen rebels and Russian forces in the Chechen capital, Grozny, with grenade launchers, mortars and automatic weapons. The rebels claimed that the Russians lost 80 armoured vehicles, nine helicopters and a plane. The Russians denied losing a plane, but admitted heavy losses, including at least 70 dead and several hundred injured.

Ferocious Grozny battles are a warning to Yeltsin on eve of his inauguration, writes Helen Womack in Moscow

bring peace to the Caucasus, but who had allowed air-raids on Chechen villages within days of being returned to the Kremlin. "We went in Yeltsin's direction during the elections, believing that he would even allow presidential elections on our territory," a Chechen field commander, with the *nom de guerre* of Rezvan, was quoted in *Izvestia* as saying. "But it turns out that Yeltsin tricked everyone. Now we want to ruin his celebrations and remind all his guests that the war is continuing and that Chechen will never be conquered by force."

With the peace process in tatters, force was all Moscow had to offer yesterday. While the helicopter gunships, known as "crocodiles", fired rockets against rebel positions in the suburbs, army reinforcements, whose convoys had rumbled into Grozny overnight, fought to clear guerrillas from around

the onslaught. Despite the confrontation, however, after the inauguration, Mr Yeltsin is expected to go on holiday, leaving the problem of Chechnya to the Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin - if the Communist-dominated State Duma re-confirms him in office. Mr Chernomyrdin, generally regarded as a dove on Chechnya, told MPs yesterday that the Grozny rebels would be re-buffed, but that all-out war was not the long-term solution to the region's problems.



Fighting back: A Chechen rebel fires a grenade launcher as the Russian offensive builds up in Grozny Photograph: AP

Yangtze floods again, killing 2,000 villagers

TERESA POOLE
Peking

It seems to be an inevitable annual tragedy: China's summer rains begin, the Yangtze river and its tributaries rise to levels "not seen for decades", the dikes are breached, and terrible floods lay claim to central and southern provinces, killing thousands and wiping out whole villages and their crops.

In 1994 the summer flood death toll reached more than 5,000, and in 1995 almost 4,000. After the downpour started, last month, water levels rose quickly, in half a dozen provinces. Around 2,000 people have died, but the number will inevitably rise, with more rain forecast and waters draining away slowly in some of the worst hit regions, exacerbating problems with disease.

Torrential rains have dangerously swollen three of China's biggest rivers and officials have warned against epidemics in the wake of the floods.

The waters of the Yellow River, known as "China's sorrow" for its devastating floods throughout history, had risen to a historic high following several weeks of rain, an official said. Millions have lost their homes and grain stocks.

Along the Yangtze, soldiers and civilians have been manning dikes around the clock in the hope of preventing a greater catastrophe. Medical and sanitation teams have been distributing chlorine to the millions of people whose water supplies are now contaminated by sewage and rotting animals.

The destruction in recent years has been nothing com-

pared with the greatest Yangtze flood calamities earlier this century. Official statistics give the death toll of the 1931, 1953 and 1954 floods as more than 300,000. Flood prevention has improved in recent years, but vulnerable regions still suffer.

In Guangxi's Rongshui prefecture, for instance, people struggle to rebuild dikes and irrigation systems from year to year, only to be hit by even worse flooding. It is a financially ruinous cycle. The total official economic cost of the 1995 floods was more than £13bn.

Part of the problem is that dikes and embankments built in the 1950s, after repeated repairs simply cannot cope with bigger floods. This year, in Hubei alone, 300km of dikes have been destroyed.

Peking does not like to admit that a great deal more might be done. But, in an unprecedented step, the central government this year authorised provinces to approach international agencies themselves for help, an apparent admission that the situation was even more serious than usual. At the same time, however, the State Planning Minister, Chen Jinhua, has talking reassuringly of a national "bumper harvest".

For most Chinese officials, the annual flood disasters are held up as the best argument in favour of building the controversial Three Gorges Dam.

But quite apart from the doubts raised by environmentalists, those millions who live in flood-prone regions could be forgiven for wondering whether more might not be done for them in the 15 years before the dam's scheduled completion.

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Protesters mark Burmese oppression in blood

DIAN CHARLES

Failed Burmese protesters marked their own blood during hunger strikes to the eighth anniversary of the bloodiest days in a 9-pro-democracy uprising against military rule.

Members of a group known as the Burmese Embassy Group, who had been in the embassy since the 1988 protests, were seen next to a banner that read: "The blood stains of 8 August 1988, when people were killed by government troops as they marched for democracy, are still fresh in our minds."

The protesters said, nevertheless, the military had continued to rule the country, oppressing the people. They called for stronger international pressure on Burma, which has drawn Western sanctions for a recent election for the National League for Democracy party.

Witnesses said there was no abnormal activity in the area. Street in front of the hall, where most people were killed as a result of a fire on the night of the 8 August 1988. Protesters were seen by explosion-like in the capital. Speculation in the city that the protesters were to mark the anniversary of the uprising.

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international

US air sorties in Gulf anger Iran

ANDREW MARSHALL
and KATHERINE BUTLER

The United States has stepped up pressure on Iran in the Gulf, launching air sorties over territory claimed by Tehran, the Pentagon confirmed yesterday.

Washington is gradually intensifying its campaign against Iran, which it accuses of involvement in international terrorism. It has imposed sanctions on companies which do business there and made veiled threats of military action. But so far the main impact has been to antagonise its allies.

Iran complained this week to the United Nations that American warplanes violated its air-

space last Saturday. It said that a US fighter flew over Bushehr in the Gulf and another violated Iranian airspace over the disputed island of Abu Musa.

The US denied it had violated Iranian airspace, though it said that there were military exercises in the area. A US Navy official in the Gulf told Reuters news agency: "Our forces were participating in an exercise called Rugged Nautilus. Flights were conducted in international airspace in the Gulf. No violation of Iranian airspace occurred." But the US did confirm that its aircraft flew over Abu Musa, which is disputed between Iran and the United Arab Emirates, saying that this

was international airspace.

This tiny island at the mouth of the Gulf is the focus of considerable interest. Jane's Intelligence Review said this week that Iran was building up its naval strength and firepower there. Jane's noted that a new civilian airport there could be used by military craft, and said that Iran had placed Hawk and SA-6 air defence missiles on the island, as well as upgraded Silkworm surface-to-surface missiles.

The timing of the US overflight is significant. The US has implied that it believes Iran might be behind an explosion which killed 19 US servicemen in Saudi Arabia in June. And last Friday - while the exercise in the

Gulf was under way - US Defence Secretary, William Perry, warned that the US would take strong action against any country proved to be involved, leading to speculation that military action was planned.

America has also put in place sanctions against companies which do business in Iran, infuriating its allies. The European Union issued a formal warning to Washington yesterday that it could face retaliation for new anti-terrorism legislation threatening foreign companies with sanctions if they invest in Iran or Libya.

Ireland, which currently holds the EU presidency, delivered a strongly-worded protest note

to senior US State Department officials through its ambassador in Washington, Dermot Gallagher. He and senior European Commission officials were instructed to express the Union's fury at the so-called D'Amato law signed by President Bill Clinton on Monday.

The letter warned that the EU reserved the right to defend its interests. Referring to the Union's "critical dialogue" with Iran the note said that although committed to countering terrorism EU governments did not believe that objective could be served by enacting laws which penalise friendly governments or violate international agreements. European governments fear

the D'Amato legislation could seriously damage the security of the Union's energy supplies. The law requires the US to impose punitive sanctions on foreign firms investing \$40m or more in oil or gas projects in either Iran or Libya.

The US move has also received an implicit rebuke from two of its allies, Turkey and Malaysia. Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan is to visit Iran at the weekend, and is expected to seal an agreement with Iran for a \$20bn natural gas deal. And Malaysian Foreign Minister, Abdullah Badawi, said he would discuss the matter with fellow members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations.

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

Turkish Cypriot authorities warned that a plan for Greek Cypriot and European bikers to force their way across the divided island's UN-patrolled buffer zone threatens peace. Their warning came on top of threats by the Turkish military to shoot anyone who crosses the Green Line buffer zone at a bikers' mass rally at the weekend.

Hundreds of bikers from several European countries were to take a ship from Greece to Cyprus ahead of a bid to ride into the Turkish-occupied parts of Cyprus on Sunday in what they say is an attempt to publicise the Cyprus problem. *Reuter - Nicosia*

Gambians besieged polling stations to vote in a referendum on a new constitution to return the West African country to elected government. Army ruler Captain Yahya Jammeh, who toppled the civilian government in July 1994, has promised to lift the ban on political parties after the referendum, giving them only a month to prepare for presidential elections in September. *Reuter - Banjul*

Israel's justice minister resigned after the attorney general ordered a police investigation into whether he had interfered with a legal investigation. Yaakov Neeman is reportedly suspected of trying to influence a witness in the corruption trial of former Interior Minister, Arieh Deri. *AP - Jerusalem*

Saddam Hussein rejected accusations that he spent a fortune on building palaces while his people endured poverty. "Enemies [of Iraq]... have alleged that palaces and guest houses were built in Iraq as Saddam's palaces... They are the people's palaces. They are built and owned by the people and are the venues of various activities on national and social occasions." *Reuter - Baghdad*

Gdansk shipyard was declared bankrupt yesterday bringing to close months of speculation about the future of the historic site where the Solidarity trade union was born. The bankruptcy will make it easier for Gdansk to restructure its debts and break off unviable ship-building contracts. But the bankruptcy will not protect 3,000 shipyard workers, more than half of the work force, who will lose their jobs when Gdansk continues operations as a new enterprise, the New Gdansk Shipyard. *AP - Gdansk*

The corpse of a Vietnamese man who police believe was murdered in a turf war among cigarette smugglers has been found. The brutal competition has caused the deaths of at least 40 Vietnamese in Germany this year. The body was found in an East Berlin apartment. The police recognised him as a cigarette smuggler from Vietnam, who had been living illegally in Germany after his application for asylum was turned down. *AP - Berlin*

Thousands of rubber sandals are washing up on remote Australian islands and polluting beaches, an Australian politician said. Julian McGauran of the conservative National party said an investigation showed sandals thrown away by Indonesian factories were washing up on the islands. *Reuter - Canberra*

Drinking beer in China could be hazardous to your health. At least 15 people were injured and four disabled by exploding beer bottles in 11 Chinese provinces and cities in the second half of 1996, the *Economic Daily* said. *Reuter - Peking*

Farmers cancel handout to Paris mob

Paris (AP) - French farmers' plans to give away 50 tons of produce in the middle of Paris in protest at falling food prices were cancelled yesterday after thousands of bargain hunters overran the protest site.

"We were overwhelmed," a protest leader explained over a loudspeaker at the plaza in front of the Montparnasse train station to the crowd, many of them poor people looking for a handout. He said the fruit and vegetables would be given to charity.

Farmers' unions had called the demonstration following a fall in wholesale prices, caused by the growing French reliance on supermarkets.

Eager, basket-toting Parisians began to arrive early in the morning. As the distribution of food began, organisers repeatedly called through the loudspeaker for calm. Just before midday, a protest leader announced that the crowds had become dangerous and that the giveaway would be cancelled.

Most of those still waiting for the free food reacted angrily, and some threatened to block the farmers' trucks to prevent them from driving away.



Off the menu: Parisians reaching out for some of the 50 tons of free produce yesterday. Farmers were overwhelmed

Photograph: AP

Republican running mate: Search for candidate to boost campaign

Dole ready to choose his man

RUPERT CORNWELL
Washington

His party's furious internal row over abortion - apparently patched over - at least for now - prospective Republican nominee Bob Dole yesterday focused on choosing a vice-presidential running mate to give the greatest possible lift to his uphill struggle for the White House.

Mr Dole's deliberations have taken place in the secrecy he relishes. Aides have let slip only that he is "very close" to a decision and that the final shortlist is down to three. Mr Dole is expected to make the announcement tomorrow in his home town of Russell, Kansas, two days before the nominating convention opens in San Diego.

With all hope apparently abandoned of netting either retired General Colin Powell or Christine Todd Whitman, the Governor of New Jersey, two stars who could add real excitement to the ticket, Mr Dole

is reportedly concentrating on a small group led by Senators John McCain of Arizona and Connie Mack of Florida, Governor John Engler of Michigan and Carroll Campbell, the former Governor of South Carolina.

But in the last few days the names of Jack Kemp, the prominent supply-sider and former Bush Cabinet member, and Donald Rumsfeld, Defense Secretary in the Ford administration, have also begun to feature. Both were closely involved in formulating Mr Dole's economic plan, centred on a 15 per cent across-the-board tax cut.

Whatever happens, the vice-presidential choice and the abortion issue are closely linked - if only because after the truce secured with the convention's dominant pro-life faction, Mr Dole dare not risk their ice once more by choosing a running mate like General Powell, or Ms Whitman, who explicitly favours abortion rights.



Names in the frame: clockwise, from top left: Connie Mack, John Engler, Carroll Campbell and John McCain

The deal reached by the platform committee on Wednesday evening is little more than a figleaf for the defeated pro-choice activists, providing merely that their unsuccessful

amendments to the existing platform commitment to a constitutional amendment banning abortion will be published as an "appendix" to the platform. This document, destined to be forgotten as soon as the convention is over, should thus be painlessly approved by delegates on Monday evening, without the embarrassing public floorfight dreaded by the Dole camp.

The spotlight thereafter will perforce fall on the vice-presidential candidate. Each mooted contender has advantages. Mr McCain is an engaging and outspoken authority on foreign policy with a war record of gallantry to match Mr Dole's. Mr Mack is a rising star in the Senate and in a position to shore up Mr Dole's wobbly support in Florida, a key Southern State which the Republicans must win to have a chance of capturing the White House. Much the same goes for Mr Campbell, Governor Engler meanwhile is a proven tax-cutter in Michigan, a key swing state, and a perfect salesman for the Dole economic plan - though perhaps less perfect than Mr Kemp, not only a tax-cutter but one of the most popular effective campaigners in Republican ranks.

And Mr Dole, not noted for his ability on the stump, needs all the help he can get. A *New York Times* poll yesterday put President Clinton ahead by 56 to 34 per cent, a lead that does not change if the Texas billionaire Ross Perot enters the fray.

Early release for 'vampire rapist'

PHIL DAVISON
Miami

A man dubbed the "Vampire Rapist" because he drank his victim's blood was freed from a Florida prison yesterday, after serving only 10 years of his 25-year term, because of good behaviour and other reductions.

John Crutchley, 49, was driven from the Ralston jail in north-west Florida to a halfway

house in Orlando after several cities said he was not welcome and many Floridians expressed outrage. Although he is now subject to a 50-year probation period, he is free to leave the state-run Orlando Probation and Restitution Centre whenever he finds a home and job, state officials said.

Crutchley, a bespectacled former engineer, was convicted of kidnapping and raping a 19-

year-old woman hitchhiker at his beachfront home in Malabar on Florida's east coast in 1986.

Naked and handcuffed, she escaped through a bathroom window and later described to police how he had drained her blood - tests showed she had lost almost half her total - with a syringe and drunk it during an 18-hour ordeal. Crutchley was also suspected of, but not charged with, at least six mur-

ders in which the victims had lost a lot of blood.

A judge sentenced him to 25 years, far beyond the recommended 12-17 years for the kidnapping and rape, but prison rules automatically took 3,000 days off the term and he received a further 2,250 days off for good behaviour.

Local county sheriff Kevin Beary said: "I think the system screwed up."

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Those first year undergraduates will not be chuffed. Imagine it. Tanned and skinny after basket weaving in Africa, or learning Spanish in Cuba, they return bearing photos and trendy ethnic objects, eager to show off to the "bring squares" who came up straight from school. Yet to their horror, since they deferred their entry, the universities have had a change of heart. A £300 bill for top-up fees awaits them when they arrive.

It's bound to happen sooner or later if we go on like this. Tony Higgins, chief executive of the University and Colleges Admissions Service, warns that it might happen in 1997; so the travelling teenagers concerned are the ones awaiting their A-levels this week. But in drift into a haphazard system of top-up fees by default would be the worst possible response to the financial problems that universities and students face.

From the universities' point of view, it is understandable. Their funds per student have been squeezed year by year as they meet the government demands to take in huge numbers of extra students. The rise in teenagers staying on for higher education has been phenomenal; and is one of the few great and enduring educational achievements of this government. One in three teenagers now goes to university. However, the Government's failure adequately to finance the expansion has created a crisis.

Universities such as Oxford, Cambridge and the LSE, who rely on expensive intensive tuition methods, or who

hope to compete for top international academics, are struggling to find the money they need to keep the standard of research and education as high as they need. They have tried selling chairs in everything from genetics to political philosophy, seeking sponsorship for research, selling academic advice, and scrounging donations from former students. The latest wheeze, touted often over the last few years, is to charge new undergraduates as well.

But make no mistake: allowing universities unilaterally to start charging fees, because we failed to come up with something better, would be a terrible mistake. Middle-class parents will pay the money up front to make sure their children still get a good education. But those who cannot afford it will turn down their premier place in favour of a cheaper institution, and possibly less challenging course, somewhere else.

Whatever happens, we must not return to a situation where elite education is distributed according to families' ability to pay, rather than merit. Nothing is more likely to restore the worst features of the British class system. Everyone knows a great education from an elite university can win you a nice job, high earnings and the prospect of continuing power and privilege. Poor but brilliant young people should not be denied their chance to compete for such prizes by an inhibiting charge.

Nor will things look much more promising if these prospective students have to borrow on the private market.

Should they stumble finding work when they leave, interest rates could rocket upwards, leaving them completely in debt to the banks. Cautious but top-class prospective students could still miss out on the best education in their fear of incurring heavy debts.

What are the alternatives? One would be for the expensive universities to concede their elite status, and muck in with everyone else. All that money invested in the education of a few clever clogs could be more fairly distributed across everyone else instead. But there has already been too much levelling down in the British education system already, before the bright people get to university: it would be a disaster to inflict that culture on universities, too. Moreover, it would be economic

idiotry not to continue taking advantage of the excellence in our best universities. Higher taxes are not an option in the present climate. But if we are to protect the best, we need to pay for the best.

David Blunkett has suggested stopping grants and replacing them with graduate loans instead. The savings on student maintenance could presumably be channelled back into university funding. So long as repayment schedules are linked to earnings and ability to pay, it should not prove an obstacle to many students. After all, why shouldn't graduates bear some of the burden of their education, so

long as it doesn't deter them from taking the degree. The chances are they will earn considerably more for the rest of their lives, thanks to the money the state has invested in them. Australia, the United States and countless other countries operate student loan schemes, where graduates gradually pay off their debts throughout their lives.

A fully fledged graduate tax would be even fairer. Suppose graduates had to pay, say, an extra 1 per cent a year for 15 years, rather than repaying regular amounts until their debts were paid off. Then the City broker would pay more in total than the teacher. The amount graduates contributed would reflect the personal financial reward they received across their lifetime from their degree. But it would not take away the incentive to get that degree in the first place.

Alternatively, the government could allow universities to charge different top-up fees and help students to borrow to cover them as well as maintenance. Why not let the Oxford graduate borrow more than the Strathclyde graduate, in order to pay for that more expensive Oxbridge education? The average Oxbridge graduate earns more later in life.

Whatever the options, whatever the alternatives, we could do with a little more guidance from our politicians. David Blunkett has set out his stall. The Government, on the other hand, has ducked behind Sir Ron Dearing, who is due to report on the funding of universities well after the next election. Uni-

versities would be completely wrong to institute top-up fees unilaterally before we have all seen and discussed Sir Ron's report.

We cannot all bury our heads in sand waiting for the venerable Sir Ron. Politicians should be leading the public discussion over the direction of higher education, not trailing around after increasingly desperate vice-chancellors. The future of this year's A-level students is already at stake.

Rich friends in hot places

Climb the greasy pole of politics, and your holidays suddenly change. Look at this year's getaways. The lower ranks carry on much as before. Ann Widdecombe is walking Wales. No surprise there, except that she is travelling by daylight. Harriet Harman plans cassoulets in the Dordogne. John Prescott will be taking a Short break.

But Tony and John are a different matter. For them the electronic gates of millionaire's villas (respectively Tuscany and the Riviera) swing silently open. Which prompts an odd question: what is it about rich people that makes party leaders want to share their hols with them? And what is it about party leaders that makes them such good houseguests? It is a puzzle.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rich rewards for parents of twins

Sir: I would not want expectant mothers of twins to be too depressed after reading Ruth Picardie's article (7 August). Twins certainly change your life, but so does any excursion into parenthood.

My own identical girls are now 10 and they have been a joy and a challenge since their birth. I can remember sitting with my husband in the hospital canteen having a "last" meal before taking them home, and reflecting on the quote "the condemned ate a hearty breakfast".

We progressed through the early days of desperately trying to breast feed both, and ending up with the sensible compromise of breast at alternate feeds during the day but definitely a bottle each for the night feed, and a bottle of Guinness for me! We passed on through the fascinating spectacle of the girls alternately being the "leader" of the pair, and then on to rotas for who sits on Mummy's lap, who has their hair washed first, who has first pick of the hand-me-down clothes etc.

The rewards of parenthood are double for the parents of twins. It is all certainly hard work, but support is always there from the health visitors at the beginning; through neighbours and friends (even if Granny no longer lives round the corner); through the local twins' club (a branch of TAMBA, the Twins and Multiple Birth Association, always a rich source of practical and moral support); and through teachers, for whom twins always hold fascination.

Parents of twins will learn to compromise, prioritise, not worry about the non-essentials in life, and emerge hopefully intact as a family with two children who, possibly because they have to fight for your attention, value it all the more and become your loving friends. A rich reward indeed.
VALERIE NEWMAN
Borham
West Sussex

Sir: As a twin, I might be expected to be shocked by the abortion of one twin. However, I am rather outraged by the voices raised in opposition. Why is it that whenever the words "ethics" and "rights" are mentioned in this context, it always means a reduction in our rights to act as we see fit? Maybe the woman involved will feel bad afterwards, but this will probably have more to do with the social pressure from groups such as the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, than with her abortion. She might have felt a lot worse if her own life, and that of her children, was ruined by her failure to cope with the twins.

I am all for a moral approach, as I am sure are most people, but this should mean the right of adults to make decisions for themselves, and take the consequences.
Dr DAVID HALL
Newcastle upon Tyne

The long list of British informers

Sir: You could have added a few more to your list of informers ("Watching me, watching you", 6 August): hanks, who now have to report suspicions of money laundering - it's a crime for them (not to) (Criminal Justice Act 1988); photograph developers, who are

on the lookout for dodgy pictures; schools, if they suspect drug dealing or use; housing authorities, who must report suspected illegal immigrants; travel agents, who have signed a deal with customs and excise to report suspect travel agents; employers, who are about to be signed up to stop illegal immigrants; social workers who suspect child abuse; airline officials who suspect illegal travellers; solicitors, who should even break with legal privilege if, say, a child is being abused or is about to be abducted; doctors, who might shop drunken drivers; the Inland Revenue (the Chancellor of the Exchequer had to apologise when they offered information to the police back in 1989); and journalists, always being asked for video footage taken at demonstrations, riots and so on (to their credit they often refuse).

We can't get enough of it.
T THOMAS
Leeds
West Yorkshire

Sir: With reference to Sara Maitland's article on benefit fraud ("Beat-a-Cheat is not the village bobby", 7 August), she obviously has no experience of living on a council estate, particularly in a small village, when she implies that anonymous help-lines are unjustified.

Until recently my parents lived opposite a man who had illegally acquired a car which had been specially adapted for a handicapped person, complete with a wheelchair lift. Much as they, and most of the other neighbours, would have liked to have brought this to the attention

of the appropriate authorities, and had the car reassigned to a genuine case, they were too afraid of retaliation to do so.

In a more serious vein, when my mother called the police about some young children (all under 10 years old) sniffing glue near their back garden, they had milk bottles thrown at them and the back fence set on fire, a frightening experience for anyone, particularly horrible for someone in their late seventies.
GERALDINE BLAKE
London W73

Sir: You seem to suggest that worthy schemes such as Neighbourhood Watch are turning us into a nation of snitches. What is wrong with citizens keeping an eye out for the safety of themselves and those around them? Isn't that just the sort of spirit we want to reintroduce, after the rampant greed and individualism of the Eighties?
MATTHEW NEWMAN
Edinburgh

Sir: There is something deeply unsavoury about the benefit fraud hotline. I think it is the Government's job to correctly ascertain who is entitled to benefit and who isn't. If some builders, plumbers, and decorators are supposedly moonlighting while claiming benefit, surely it is the Benefits Agency which is at fault for not sufficiently investigating the claimants in the first place.
MICHAEL D MITCHELL
Blackwell Heath
Buckinghamshire

Where have all the workers gone?

Sir: Colin Brown and Diane Coyle (report, 7 August) tell us about the Bank of England's warning on interest rates. However, the quarterly report also had something interesting in say about employment.

The Tories claim to have achieved a jobs miracle, thanks to deregulation. They say that unemployment has come down faster than in previous business cycles.

Then along come the Bank to burst their bubble. Yesterday's report said: "Almost the entire net performance in the 1990s compared to the 1980s was unaccounted for... by the rise in inactivity." In plain English, unemployment has been falling not because more jobs have been created but because more people have left the workforce altogether.

As Bob Dylan might ask: "Where have all the workers gone?" Much of the drop can only be explained by people being driven off the benefit register and therefore off the records altogether. A great Tory disappearing trick rather than an economic miracle! The Labour Party is committed to help people out of benefit into jobs - including 250,000 young people - rather than drive people into the statistical twilight zone.
JOHN PRESCOTT MP
Deputy Leader of the Opposition
House of Commons
London SW7

Lasdun for the National Theatre

Sir: We, Emeritus, past and present Professors of Architecture, join in strongly endorsing Jonathan Glancey's plan in "The secret facelift: can you see the join?" (30 July) that the trustees of the National Theatre should henceforth employ its architect, Sir Denys Lasdun, at least as a formal consultant in their moves to upgrade this widely acclaimed monument of drama and of architecture, particularly by the young in heart.

As trustees their responsibility is to hold the spirit of this outstanding example of Rational Modern Architecture as it exists in perpetuity. This does not mean falling prey to today's commercialism in the name of "user-friendliness." Despite the planning consent achieved and the Lottery funding promised, benefactors who might have helped the NT with the further 25 per cent of monies needed are asked to consider the reality of the altered building's meaning to generations yet to come.

PATRICK HODGKINSON, GORDON BENSON, NEAVE BROWN, PETER CLEGG, PETER COOK, EDWARD CULLINAN, TREVOR DANNATT, SIR JAMES DUNBAR-NASMITT, TONY FRETTON, CHARLES MACCULLUM, IZI METZSTEIN, IVOR RICHARDS, JOSEPH RYKWERF, DAVID SHALEV, ROBERT TAVERNOR, MICHAEL WILFORD
University of Bath

Surfing UK

Sir: I was most surprised to read the opening sentence of "You don't have to be an Australian" (6 August): "Legend has it that a group of travelling Australian lifeguards brought surfing to Britain in the early Sixties".

In 1949 I was stationed as a national serviceman in Cornwall, and during that gloriously hot summer I and my fellow officer cadets took every opportunity in off-duty hours to dash to the beaches of Newquay or Polzeath, where surfboards could be hired quite cheaply at the cheerful shops which also sold ice-cream, beach balls, spades and buckets.

As beginners, we preferred the less crowded sands of Polzeath to those at Newquay, where the many surfers were a menace to the swimmers and paddlers. Even there, however, I never saw surfers standing up on their boards, and it may be this more difficult art that the Australians introduced later.
PETER COOPER
Norwich

Olympic wisdom

Sir: In the light of the recent articles on the commercialism prevalent at the Atlanta Olympic Games, might I offer the following from Montaigne: "Pythagoras was wont to say that our life retires to [resembles] the great and populous Assembly of the Olympic Games, wherein some exercise the Body, that they may carry away the Glory of the Prize in those Contentions, and others carry Merchandise to sell for profit."
M I R SUMMERELL
Southampton, Hampshire

Why the royals can't be like us

Sir: Melvyn Bragg is right ("Prisoners of the fourth estate", 5 August). This country needs a monarchy but the royal family will have to reform itself if it is to survive through the next century.

The ootie that the royals must grasp is that they can not be like the rest of us. It is their misfortune to have been born into an image-hungry and media-dominated age but they do nothing themselves to discourage the spotlight of attention.

If there is a point to a modern monarchy, it is as a politically neutral focus for national loyalties. It is the royal family's duty to provide us with that focus. The media needs a clear image: the enthroned monarch surrounded by a family committed to royal service; a symbol demonstrating dedication, self-sacrifice and austerity; a family freed from the everyday cares that their subjects endure, but barred from the everyday pleasures of those same subjects.

It is a great thing to know one's place. It is not the place of a royal to tell us how difficult life is or how the country should be run or what constitutes good architecture. Such chatter can safely be left to the rest of us fortunate enough to be born of bumbler stock.

Duty has never been easy or pleasant. This century millions of our countrymen and women died doing their duty. They leave a lot to live up to. It is only by demonstrating a similar commitment to duty that the royal family has any chance of winning back our respect. So long as they insist on behaving like film stars or media celebrities they will be treated as such.
RICK STROUD
London SW10

Stamps: may the best woman win

Sir: The question "Is Margot Fonteyn a better woman than Vivien Leigh?" (7 August) surely does not arise given that, as you report, Vivien Leigh has already had the honour of being commemorated on a postage stamp. You would also have helped clarify the question if you had emphasised that the list from which the five women was chosen was made up of people who had been born, as well as died, in the 20th century. But the absence of Barbara Hepworth from the long list ("Who they could have chosen") is the most mystifying of all.

PETER SMITH
Sedburgh, Cumbria

Sir: I am delighted that women should be featured on an edition of our postage stamps, and very worthy they all are. But why not an alternative edition for the pleasure of philatelists everywhere? For example, Diana Dors, Barbara Windsor, Barbara Cartland, Esther Rantzen and Edwina Currie?
JULIAN CRITCHLEY
(Aldershot, Conn)
House of Commons
London SW7

Sir: Re "Is Margot Fonteyn a better woman than Vivien Leigh?", 7 August). Perhaps the more important question is how one woman appears on all our stamps, when nobody has voted for her. The Rev DAVID E FAVELL
Petterie
Co Durham

analysis

Even if there is intelligent life out there, let's not take the dangerous and expensive step of trying to reach it, argues Charles Arthur

Let the Martians come to us

Daniel Goldin, the head of the US space agency Nasa, is not a man to let the occasion for a few grandiloquent words slip easily by. So he opened Wednesday's press conference in Washington, called to announce some plausible evidence that there was once life on Mars, with a few well-chosen high-octane phrases.

"I have been speaking to world leaders of space," he said. "Some of them were almost childlike in their excitement... I invited them to join us... In the next decade our objective is to send an armada of spacecraft to the other planets in our solar system, and detect planets around other stars."

Following the two-hour exposition - which amounted to a crash course in planetary evolution theory and techniques of scanning electron microscopy - the media were sold on the idea of getting to Mars. So were some of the scientists lined up to speak about their paper.

"We are talking about exploration," one intoned gravely, clearly also stricken with the grandiloquence virus. "It is important that this country keeps its aims of exploration, and the pioneer spirit. There are new worlds to explore in space, but we have to be prepared to invest in them. When we lose that will, such nations perish."

Meanwhile, Bill Clinton, supping the zeitgeist and no doubt with one eye on the feel-good factor in this election year, made a Kennedy-like pronouncement. "I am determined the American space programme will put its full intellectual power and technological prowess behind the search for further evidence of life on Mars," he told an eager group of reporters.

And just for good measure, Mr Goldin wrapped it all up with the declaration: "At the emotional level, we are a very bold nation. Nasa will be ready to take the next step. If we have to take sample missions earlier than expected, we will do it. If we have to dig into the surface of Mars, we will. If we have to do that digging with humans, we will - safely."

Phew. While I had been aware that the US was on a high after its coverage of the Olympics, I hadn't thought they really wanted to enter the interplanetary high jump. My first reaction, listening to those stirring words a safe 6,000 miles away, was that the participants ought to be tested for excess testosterone.

For although Mr Goldin might make it sound as though heading off to Mars would just be a question of getting NBC to do the coverage and inviting a few countries round to help in the competition, the fact is that nobody who matters is in any hurry to get people on Mars - even if this new research is confirmed as correct (which it still hasn't been).

Why the lack of urgency? Because sending people to Mars would be dangerous, enormously expensive, and most unlikely to tell us anything that we cannot find out already,

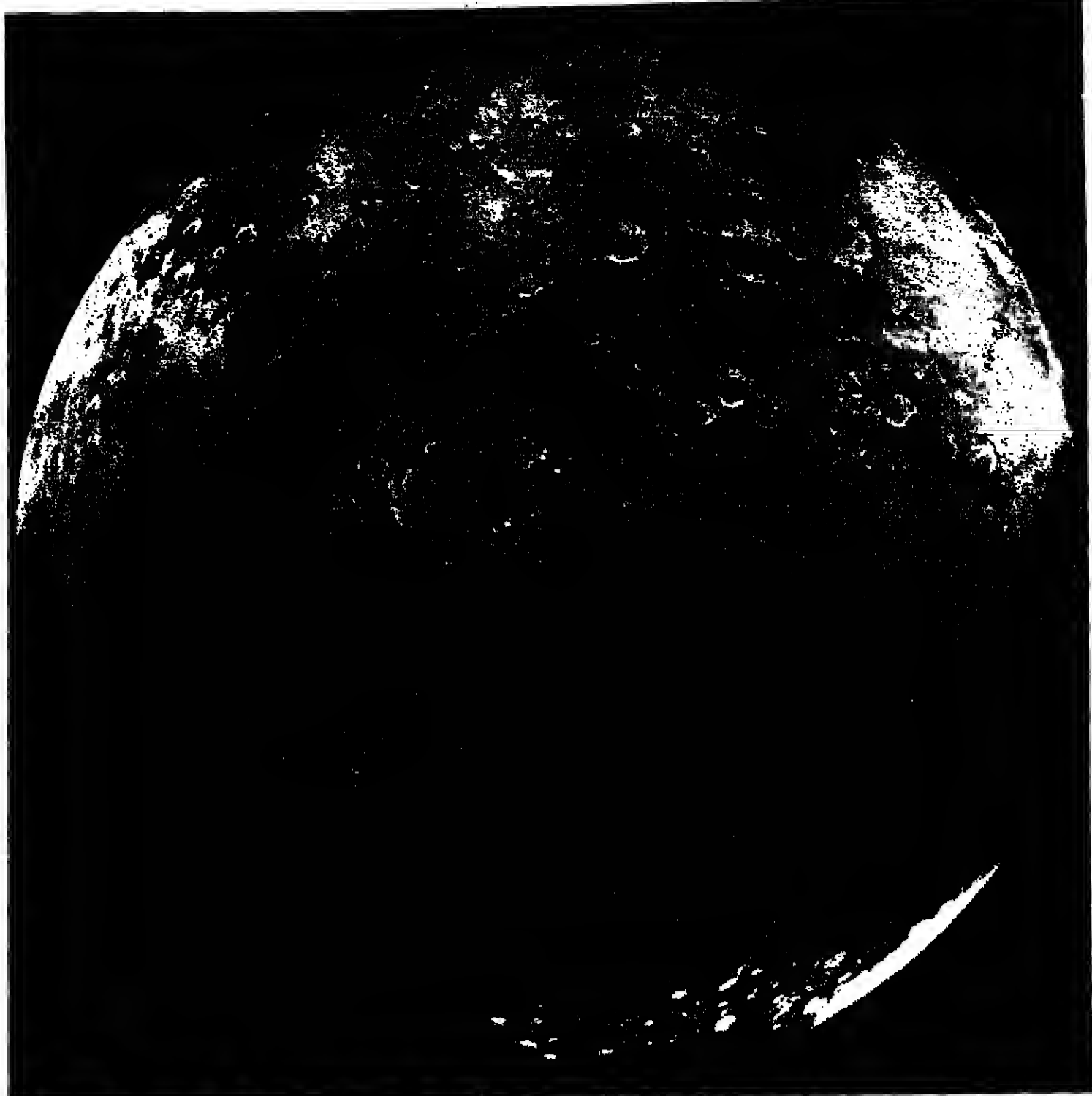
either with robot-driven spacecraft or here on Earth. Don't forget, after all, that this news didn't need any rockets to slip the surly bonds of Earth. We let the Martians do the hard work, travelling through space encased in a chunk of rock that thumped into Antarctica 13,000 years ago, and was discovered only 12 years ago.

Going to Mars sounds so enormously attractive. It's not as obvious as the Moon (I would doubt that many people could point it out in the night sky), but it has the cultural resonance born of hundreds of science fiction films and books. The facts are otherwise. The Moon is 250,000 miles away; it's a few days' journey by any spacecraft. Mars is 46 million miles away, 180 times further. It would take a year to get there and a year to get back. As scientists overwintering in Antarctica have found out, even a few months in enforced close confinement with somebody else can drive you mad, or murderous. "The way someone scratches their beard... it can all add up," said one at a conference in Cambridge this week. Certainly, any childlike excitement that you might start out with would evaporate very quickly.

And besides the psychological problems, there is the difficulty of what they would live on. Carrying enough food and water for a two-year trip would make the spacecraft horrendously heavy: just imagine how much space your own food for a week takes up. Every extra gram must be compensated for with rocket fuel to lift it out of our atmosphere. That's always assuming that no error (as with the Challenger and, more recently, Ariane 5) turned triumph into disaster. Meanwhile, plans to build self-sustaining "farms" that could feed our brave, pioneering, spirited astronauts on their mission are only in the early testing stages. All Bill Clinton's wishes for re-election and Dan Goldin's desire for a willing Congress that will fund him more readily won't change those scientific facts. It will be many decades before we are able to send people to Mars. The cost will also be horrendous, running into tens of billions of dollars.

Beside those points, it's worth asking what we will find even if we do send an armada of highly equipped spacecraft there. Nasa intends to launch two spacecraft this year, costing £265m: one will overfly the red planet, and the other will land and examine the rocks and soil. A mission in 2004 is due to return a sample to Earth, though last week - before this latest announcement - Goldin "challenged" engineers to design systems which could return a sample by 2003.

Quite why we need to bring back the samples in such a hurry is not clear, unless they contain credit cards. It is worth remembering that the US is struggling with a mammoth fiscal deficit that has forced it to cut back public spending on a huge scale - on welfare and health



New world: Nasa's chief makes it sound easy for us to send men to Mars, but the reality is a little different

Nasa/Reuters

care, most notably. Nasa has not escaped those cuts. Is it really sensible to allow signs of life (which, remember, are not proof positive) to stampede us into spending money that might be better spent on science at home - or even on other humans at home?

It could be that the wisest move would be to keep examining the samples that we have, and to stay with the approach that served us well in this case: let the aliens come to us. But if they do, it might be sensible to be wary.

With 100 billion or so Sun-like stars in the Milky Way, the odds of life having emerged around one, or

many, of them is very high. In that case, the odds of other intelligent life having emerged must also be very high. We are presently beaming out signals to space proclaiming our existence: TV programmes from the 1950s have by now passed several thousand stars.

As Malcolm Young, professor in psychology at the University of Newcastle, remarked to me yesterday: "We are presently tweeting loudly like nestlings in a wood in which there may be hungry cats." Biologists, he said, call this a failure of crypticity. Nestlings that survive only make noises when their parents are about to protect them; other-

wise they shut up (or get eaten). "Even if the transmissions can't be decoded by our audience, the fact of their existence means there are resources in this system that could be of significant interest."

It starts to sound rather worrying. Some people argue that any aliens that could reach us would already have the capability to destroy themselves - but would have evolved far enough not to use it. Evolution doesn't work that way, Young retorts. "You could say the same about us, but would you like to be a tiger, white rhino, or mountain gorilla?"

It's all reminiscent of the science

fiction short story which tells of a race of aliens that comes in peace, ends war, cures disease, and makes humanity stronger, fitter, better. A few lucky people are invited to visit the home planet - a veritable Eden, they are told. The fact that they don't return seems to prove it. One cynic finds an alien hook: by enormous effort he manages to translate the title: "To Serve Man". Impressed that altruism really has arrived, he volunteers for the next trip out.

Unfortunately, by the time his number comes up he has translated the first few words. It's a cookery book.

We need more proof

THE CASE AGAINST

If it can be shown that life in our own solar system has appeared on one planet but on the inference is that it will appear on any planet where conditions are right. And the implications here are of vital importance both scientifically and philosophically.

On the other hand, we have to exert a certain amount of caution. The meteorite has lain in the Antarctic for thousands of years, and it certainly came from space. But did it come from Mars?

It is quite true that the composition and characteristics of this meteorite tie in very well with what we believe the Martian surface to be like. Yet we have no positive proof, and I am bound to say that I have definite reservations.

I think we must wait until we can obtain samples that we are quite certain come from Mars. We need to send up an unmanned probe, land it on Mars and bring it back with samples. This was done long ago by the Russians with regard to the moon, and I have little doubt that we can do the same with Mars within the next 10 years.

Even if we do find evidence of life, it will be primarily of little practical value, and probably of little interest to the general public.

There may once have been life on Mars - there may even be primitive life there now - but for now, it is a fascinating anecdote and we must wait and see.

There may once have been life on Mars - there may even be primitive life there now - but for now, it is a fascinating anecdote and we must wait and see.

The writer is an astronomer.

NO MORE PICNICS, NO MORE DAYS ON THE BEACH, NO MORE BUTTERFLIES, NO MORE CHOCKIE CAKE, NO MORE BEDTIME STORIES, NO MORE TEDDY BEARS, NO MORE KISSES GOODNIGHT...



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We'll soon hear our first cosmic 'hello'

One implication of the meteorite find is that life on both Mars and Earth was seeded from outside: from comets.

We know that these so-called "inner planets" were fiercely bombarded by cometary objects for a full half billion years after they were formed. Life began when the bombardment abated, about 4 billion years ago. The discovery of complex organic

THE CASE FOR

molecules in interstellar dust, as well as in dust from comets, pointed to the correctness of this general picture of the dispersal of life that was first advocated by Sir Fred Hoyle and myself in the 1970s.

The building blocks of life, which may be as complex as bacteria and viruses, appear now to be widespread, for if bacteria are found on Mars,

they would surely have been dispersed throughout the entire planetary system.

The recent discoveries of planets around nearby stars adds credence to the idea that many billions of inhabited Earth-like planets exist in our galaxy alone. Of the 100 billion Sun-like stars in our galaxy it would seem reasonable to expect that one per cent of these have planetary systems like our

own. At the very least, the universe must be teeming with microbial life.

It would of course be naive to suggest that all life evolves as it has done on Earth. One would expect rather to find parallel evolutionary processes, starting from the same cosmic building blocks, to occur on every habitable planet in the universe. Intelligent life cannot be

much of a rarity. As the International Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) gathers momentum, we may confidently expect to hear our first cosmic 'hello' in the not too distant future.

Charles Wickramasinghe
The author is Professor of Applied Mathematics and Astronomy at the University of Wales, Cardiff.

No pervy stuff, just man-to-man combat

We've been together most of the week, and I think that I know you well enough to share a few secrets. I want to tell you about my fantasies; about my secret interior life, the things that I think about in those unoccupied moments when travelling to work, or in the lift, or queuing.

But what is really embarrassing is that these are not carnal fantasies. They don't involve whipped cream, fur and the characters from *Upstairs, Downstairs*. No, these are fantasies in which I imagine that fellow passengers, lift-users and customers - the people I bump into while negotiating the more mundane features of everyday life - offend me, provoke me, or attack me. And I daydream about how I will respond, and how they will respond to my response, until an entire ladder of escalation - complete with dialogue and actions - is sketched out in my mind.

Here are a couple of examples:

Fantasy One: I am standing in a long and ill-defined queue (many queues these days seem to have multiple points of entry, blurring the clear distinctions between arriving, say, 34th and 35th). It may be a queue for tickets or for a delayed bus. I have been waiting for some time. Out of the corner of my eye I spot a young man in a suit sliding up at right-angles to the line.

He comes and stands next to me, on the pretext of reading a poster on the wall, or tying his laces. Then, having waited his moment, he insinuates a part of his anatomy - or perhaps a briefcase, or umbrella - between me and the person in front. We both know that his plan is for the rest of him to follow, inch by inch, until the *fait* is accomplished. If he succeeds, not only will he have my place, but he will have had my metaphorical *cojones*.

So what shall I do to prevent my unmaning? In the first instance I must match stealth with stealth. As he



David Aaronovitch

slides his case forward, mine will also be on the move, but more quickly! Bang! His runs into the side of mine. Our eyes meet. I have won. For any police officer or insurance company would adjudge him to be at fault. He withdraws.

But suppose I have no weapon? Then I will try the "innocent bystander" technique. As his briefcase moves, so will I. The result will be a stumble, a small yelp of pain, a look of hurt surprise on my face. "How did that...?" He will apologise, and remove the offending object. Victory.

Fantasy Two: I join a

longish line of stationary traffic, leading up to some lights. On the left is a bus lane. If many cars use the bus lane to jump the line, then law-abiding drivers like me could be stuck here till kingdom come (up to six minutes). In my rearview mirror I see a Ford Probe, being driven by a young man in a suit. He is dithering, but I think he may be about to take the naughty route.

My fantasy options are these: a) to pull out sufficiently far so as not to be wholly in the bus lane myself, but to deny Probeman access to it. But what if a bus is following him? b) to make impotent finger-pointing motions, while mouthing "it's a bloody bus lane, and my watch shows it's very much still between 8 am and 6 pm, mush!" c) as he sails by I get out of the car, and walk over to the unmarked police vehicle stuck in front of me. I tell the occupants that I am a journalist on a national newspaper writing a piece on the enforcement of traffic regu-

lations, and I was just wondering what they were planning to do about the guy in the Probe? Two minutes later I sail past, as blokey is pulled over and forced to show all his documents. And explain why his road-tax is three months out of date.

Pathetic, eh? Sure. I feel bad that I have at least one of these fantasies every day. But I would argue that this form of internalised conflict role-playing can do good. It means that I have imagined most situations before they happen, and I have a skewed idea whether or not I can win. Not like my friend Rebecca, who found herself confronting a queue-jumper at an airport check-in this week. As she squared up to the young man in a suit she heard herself tell him that he had acted "disobediently". "Don't you realise," she demanded shrilly, "that this is how wars start?" Then she, he and the whole queue started to laugh. No *cojones*.

Miles Kingston is on holiday.

So if the prospect for the next five years will be tough for both parties, in some ways it will be even more difficult for a Tory government to meet the expectations of its supporters than it will for a Labour one. Clearly if they do manage to scramble back they have to make sure they can hang on through the full five years in the hope that the voters can forget the glum two or three first ones – a tactic of which they have some experience.

"Ibby did raise the issue when he offered me the job. I cut the conversation off short. I'm not interested in that kind of patronage—goodies being dolloped out here and there. I'd like to think that if the post is given a cabinet seat it would be on the merits of the policy, not the individual."

The sadness is that unless Clare Short learns to maintain a little more discretion, in public at least, overseas development may never get in the Cabinet table by either route.

our world: when light comes out of a bulb, it's because electrons are making sudden—quantum—jumps, in accordance with his rules.

The Uncertainty effects average out, when you move up to larger objects.

For example, if your A-map tells you that the distance from London to Birmingham is 120 miles, it makes no difference to you if it turns out to be a millionth of a millimetre further. If, however, the effects on the atomic level, where the Uncertainty Principle does dominate, are channelled carefully enough, they can be useful. Computers, fibre-optic cables and CD players all depend on his rules.

Heisenberg lived until 1976, but he almost didn't make it through the war. In late 1944, he was giving a private seminar in neutral Switzerland, and an American assassin, the crack-shot Moe Berg, was planted in the audience.

If Heisenberg showed evidence that his bomb project was on the right tracks, he was to be killed. But the talk was too technical for Berg to follow. His scrawled notes from the meeting survive in CIA archives: "As I listen, I am uncertain—see: Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle—what to do to H—"

Monday,
Classical Architecture

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CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

SFO raid Hinchliffe mansion home

BY PAUL FARRELLY

Police raided the Sheffield headquarters of controversial entrepreneur Stephen Hinchliffe yesterday as the Serious Fraud Office announced a criminal investigation into the collapse two months ago of his Facia retail empire.

SFO officers and detectives from South Yorkshire police's commercial branch drove away a vanload of documents from Parkhead Hall, the sumptuous Sheffield mansion from which Mr Hinchliffe ran Facia and his extensive web of private companies that also form a key part of the police enquiry.

Four other addresses were searched, including Mr Hinchliffe's homes in Sheffield and London, and that of Christopher Harrison, Facia's finance director. Citing "operational reasons", the SFO and police declined to comment on the substance of the allegations.

Sources close to the case, however, said the investigation related to alleged theft of assets of millions of pounds from Facia and other matters linked to the running of the group.

"Search warrants were executed today at five premises connected with Facia Limited in Sheffield and central London," the SFO confirmed. "The Serious Fraud Office together with South Yorkshire police have begun an investigation into Facia and related companies. No arrests have been made."

Mr Hinchliffe could not be contacted yesterday and was said by his office to be on holiday, thought to be in London. The SFO is urgently seeking the co-operation of both into the inquiry.

The day's dramatic events follow ten weeks of investigation by accountants KPMG into Facia's and Mr Hinchliffe's affairs.

The group, which included Sock Shop and the Salisbury's luggage chain, collapsed into receivership at the beginning of June, owing £30m to banks and suppliers.

The receivers have been investigating up to £10m of loans to Mr Hinchliffe's private companies and other expenses, including holidays and helicopter fees, charged to Facia.

They are also investigating the alleged disappearance of payments made to Facia by sellers of businesses to the group.

These are understood to include compensation for lease obligations - so-called "reverse premiums" - which allegedly never found their way to the group.

KPMG partner Tony Thompson, who is heading the receivership, declined to comment on the SFO move last night, but confirmed the firm had passed documents to the regulators.

Liaison with the police, SFO and the Department of

Trade and Industry has become an increasing part of our job," he said.

Both Mr Hinchliffe and Mr Harrison have yet to provide statements of affairs to KPMG, as required by law within 21 days of the company's collapse.

The DTI is already seeking to disqualify Mr Hinchliffe and Mr Harrison, his long time associate, as directors over the collapse of tennis court maker En-Tout-Cas in 1993.

Proceedings, which Mr Hinchliffe is defending, started last week and are next due in court in January.

The new enquiry is not Mr Hinchliffe's first brush with the police. In 1991, he was arrested and later released without charge by West Midlands police over an allegedly improper property deal.

Mr Hinchliffe built Facia up over two years in a dizzy bout of dealmaking. At the time of the collapse, it was Britain's second largest private retailer after Littlewoods, with 850 shops in all. Most of the businesses have since been sold by the receivers, KPMG, while the Saxone, Freeman Hardy Willis and Carruthers chains are still under separate administration by Price Waterhouse.

Mr Hinchliffe, who is well-known for his lavish lifestyle, has always denied wrongdoing in the trail of corporate collapses that have dogged his career.

Police and fraud investigators searched homes in the south of England as part of their inquiry into the world copper market in the wake of the Sumitomo scandal, the Serious Fraud Office said yesterday.

Officers from the Serious Fraud Office and City of London police executed search warrants at two residential premises in the south of England yesterday morning as part of their ongoing investigation into the copper trading market, a spokesman said.

The SFO would not say whose homes they were.

The inquiries follow the disclosure in June by Sumitomo



Facing investigation by the SFO: Stephen Hinchliffe, founder of the Facia retailing empire, who was well known for his lavish lifestyle

Sumitomo scandal sparks hunt in UK

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The inquiries follow the disclosure in June by Sumitomo

Corp, Japan's giant metals conglomerate, that it had sacked star trader Yasuo Hamanaka, alleging he ran up losses worth \$1.8bn in unauthorised copper deals. The news led to wild gyrations in the copper price.

British police raided homes and offices in the offshore tax haven of Guernsey on 11 May

when sources close to the investigation said they were linked with inquiries into a possible international fraud in copper.

The British Serious Fraud Office began its own inquiry into the copper scandal on 14 June. Three days later a New York grand jury was convened to be-

gin criminal inquiries in the United States.

Mr Hamanaka has not been seen since the metals conglomerate made its announcement. Since then a Japanese "wall of silence" around his ksmaking positions has helped to revive confidence in the industrial metals market.

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United finds a friendly Refuge

NIC CICUTTI

United Friendly and Refuge Assurance, two insurers competing in the dwindling home service market, yesterday decided to merge into a £1.46bn company with the loss of up to 1,800 jobs, a quarter of staff in both organisations.

The two companies said the merger, expected to take place in September, would lead to cost savings benefiting both shareholders and policyholders. The new organisation will be called United Assurance.

In a separate move, more than a million Refuge policyholders will share in a £101m windfall, paid because of the strength of the insurer's long-term business funds. The bonuses will be added to their value of their policies. Refuge said a 20-year endowment taken out in 1981, with a sum assured of £8,000, would be allocated an extra £763.

A further £430m surplus,

known as "orphan assets", has been identified as attributable to the company's shareholders. However, Refuge stressed the money would not be paid out immediately but would be used to finance group activities.

The merger highlights the long-running contractions being

suffered by the UK insurance industry, hit by rising costs and over-supply in an increasingly competitive market.

Both United Friendly and Refuge operate in the same area of the market, servicing mainly low-income clients, whose premiums are often col-

lected at their homes each month. United and Refuge sell mainly life insurance, but United has a general insurance arm providing building, contents and household products. It quit the British motor market in May.

The combined organisation will have some 2.8million clients, with £6.5bn under management.

George Mack, the new chief executive in the merged organisation, said: "We intend this merger to obtain significant economies of scale."

Of the merged organisation's 7,000 staff, about a quarter will lose their jobs. Some 100 offices will close, while United's head office in South London will transfer to Refuge's headquarters in Walslow, Cheshire.

Mr Mack said that no decisions had been made on which staff - at any level - would remain or leave the organisation.

"We will make our decision purely on merit, without favouring either side," he said.



Welcome aboard: John Gudworth (right) and George Mack, new chairman and chief executive. Photograph: Paul Bulley

Cut-price Somerfield offered to rivals in bid to raise more cash

NIGEL COPE

The Somerfield supermarket chain, whose shares are expected to open at a substantial premium on the stock market today, was offered for sale to rival supermarket groups last week in a desperate attempt to gain a higher price for the company.

Somerfield's advisers, Kleinwort Benson, contacted UK chains such as Sainsbury's, Tesco, Safeway and Asda to establish whether they would be interested. The sale price mentioned was slightly higher than the cut-price £43m achieved through flotation. None of the supermarket groups responded to Kleinwort's approach.

The action is seen as a last-ditch effort by Kleinwort Benson to establish that Somerfield could not have been sold at any

other price or to any other buyer. City experts see the eleventh-hour approaches as a means of protecting the bank from potential litigation from Isosceles, Somerfield's original debt holders, for selling the company too cheaply.

The price of Somerfield's shares was cut twice in the run-up to flotation, from 180p to 160p and then to 145p. City analysts estimate that they could start trading at 155p-165p when dealings start today. Many feel the shares could reach 185p within a few weeks, fuelling concern among the group's original backers that the price was set too low. "Kleinwort didn't get it away, they gave it away," one analyst said. Advisers were paid total fees of £40m for the Somerfield flotation.

Two of the big four UK

chains confirmed yesterday that they were asked if they would be interested in buying the former Gateway business. One said: "Kleinwort Benson came to us last week. But we rejected the approach point blank. It was not a difficult decision." It is understood that a price of 160p a share was mentioned.

A director of another big supermarket group said it too was contacted last week and expected to provide an answer within seven days and with very little financial information. "We just said no. They'd messed us around before." The director said the group was unimpressed with the bank's handling of the offer. "They haven't managed it very well."

Kleinwort Benson refused to confirm or deny that it had approached potential buyers

last week. The bank also denied that the action was an attempt to protect it from possible litigation. "I'm not confirming anything. If you want to speculate, that's up to you," one source close to the float said.

City analysts criticised Somerfield's advisers for setting the initial price too high. "After the first price failed the institutions had them over a barrel," one said. "At this price these shares will have the lowest rating of any of the biggest 220 companies in Britain. And it has the fourth-highest yield. Is this company that bad? I think not."

Somerfield confirmed yesterday that just under 90 per cent of retail applications were confirmed. Around 16 million shares valued at £23.3m will go to private investors.

Rank's review gets a cool reception

TOM STEVENSON
City Editor

Rank got a cool reception from the City yesterday for new chief executive Andrew Tare's strategic review of the leisure and entertainment group. Despite most of the details being well flagged over the last week or so, the shares closed 27p lower at 441p, a 6 per cent decline on the day.

As expected, Rank signalled its intention to put its remaining 20 per cent stake in photocopyer group Rank Xerox up for sale. The holding is in the books at £930m although if Xerox chooses to buy in the minority, as Rank hopes, it is expected to pay rather more for complete control.

In order to avoid a sizeable tax liability of maybe £200m, Rank will create a new holding company, Rank Group, to sit above two operating companies, Rank Organisation, which will continue to hold the Rank Xerox stake and is up for sale, and a group of all its other operations.

Mr Tare also spelled out

plans to raise £300m from the disposal of peripheral businesses, including its Shearings coach holiday arm. Speculation is growing that Rank plans to ditch the Pinewood film studios.

Rank plans to focus on four managed businesses - film, mainly duplication operations serving Hollywood studios; holidays, including Butlin's and Haven brands; UK recreation, where names include Odéon, Mecca and Top Rank; and Hard Rock, the themed restaurants group.

Mr Tare has also decided to maintain Rank's link with MCA, with whom the group is developing the Universal City theme park in Florida. It has also agreed in principle to take a stake in a Universal park in Osaka, Japan.

The interim results for the six months to June were heavily distorted by the profit last year on the sale of part of the Rank Xerox stake and the decision this year to book the dividend from that company rather than Rank's notional share of its profits.

High street rakes in cash as UK goes on shopping spree

DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

The nation went on a shopping spree last month, pointing to a continuing surge in high street spending according to the Confederation of British Industry. Its July distributive trades survey published today recorded the second-biggest increase in sales since the start of 1990, beaten only by June's increase.

The underlying rate of growth in sales volumes rose slightly between June and July. Retailers expect next month's increase to be the strongest since December 1988.

Alistair Eperon, chairman of the CBI's distributive trades survey panel, said: "As firms' expectations have been met over the past two months, their stronger expectations for August are even more encouraging."

The results, ahead of official figures for retail sales, add to the weight of evidence pointing to

a significant upturn in consumer spending.

The Bank of England this week cited buoyant business surveys as one of the reasons it thought interest rates would have to rise at some point, and preferably sooner rather than later. Four recent surveys of manufacturing have signalled that a recovery is also under way in industry.

The balance of retailers reporting higher rather than lower sales was 43 per cent in July compared with 45 per cent in June and well up from the average of 30 per cent in the preceding three months. The expected balance for August climbed to 50 per cent.

A balance of 38 per cent said the volume of orders they placed with suppliers increased last month - well ahead of their earlier expectations. The

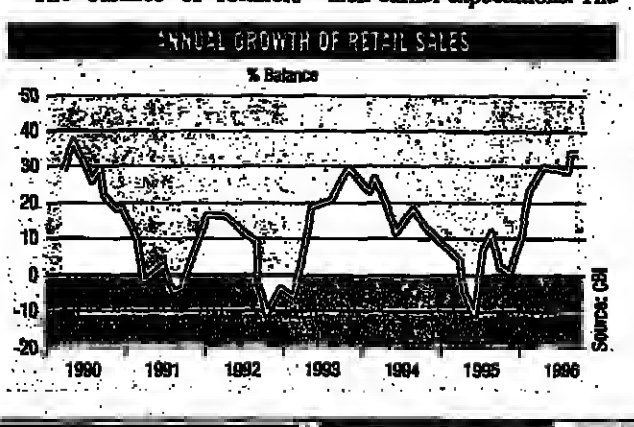
33 per cent expecting an increase in orders this month is the highest recorded for nearly eight years.

The only sectors not to report a July pick-up in sales compared with a year earlier were newsagents and off-licences. Grocers, clothes and shoe shops said they enjoyed a second successive month of strong growth.

The sectors linked to the housing market - furniture and carpets, DIY, china and household goods - said good sales growth continued, though at a substantially lower level for furniture and carpet retailers.

The survey also reported the second successive month of stronger-than-expected sales by motor traders. Orders placed with suppliers rose sharply in July and are expected to climb further in August. Wholesalers' volumes picked up after a slowdown in June.

The pound rose by more than a penny to DM2.3005 yesterday.



STOCK MARKETS

FT-SE 100

Dow Jones

Nikkei

FT-SE Stock Index Data

These figures include a graph at 1996 prices

Indices						
Index	Close	Day's change	Change(%)	1996 High	1996 Low	YTD(%)
FTSE 100	3811.40	+0.30	+0.0	3857.10	3632.30	4.10
FTSE 250	4378.60	+0.80	+0.2	4508.80	4016.30	3.49
FTSE 350	1907.00	+1.00	+0.1	1945.40	1816.80	3.97
FT Small Cap	2118.63	+4.36	+0.2	2244.38	1954.06	3.13
FT All Share	1884.43	+1.22	+0.1	1824.17	1791.95	3.91
FT All Share (New York)	5685.75	-32.92	-0.6	5778.90	5032.94	2.20
Taiwan	20731.31	+253.72	+1.2	22886.80	19734.70	0.77
Hong Kong	11184.36	+36.82	+0.3	11894.99	10204.87	3.48
Frankfurt	2538.15	+6.26	+0.2	2583.48	2258.36	1.81

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES									
Short sterling		UK medium gilt		US long bond		Euro area		Japan	
Index	1 Month	1 Year	3 Month	1 Year	3 Month	1 Year	3 Month	1 Year	3 Month
UK	5.75	6.00	7.75	8.00	7.91	8.08			
US	5.31	6.06	8.53	8.51	6.81	6.98			
Japan	0.41	0.88	3.19	3.07	-	-			
Germany	3.26	3.47	6.30	6.87	7.02	-			

MAIN PRICE CHANGES									
Index		Index		Index		Index		Index	
FTSE 100	3811.40	FTSE 250	4378.60	FTSE 350	2118.63	FT All Share	1685.75	Hang Seng	11184.36
ASX 200	1970.00	Nikkei	2538.15	DAX	2538.15	IBEX	2538.15	FTSE 100	3811.40

CURRENCIES									
£/\$		£/DM		£/¥		£/A\$		£/NZ\$	
Index	Close	Index	Close	Index	Close	Index	Close	Index	Close
£/\$	1.5486	£/DM	0.6463	£/¥	163.04	£/A\$	0.6297	£/NZ\$	0.8287
£/\$	1.5486	£/DM	0.6463	£/¥	163.04	£/A\$	0.6297	£/NZ\$	0.8287

OTHER INDICATORS									
Index		Index		Index		Index		Index	
Oil Brent	18.78	Gold	388.20	Base Rate	5.75%	RPI	163.04	15 Aug	163.04
Gold	388.20	Base Rate	5.75%	RPI	163.04	15 Aug	163.04	15 Aug	163.04

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INSTRUMENTS
FOR PROFESSIONALS

business

Reed has nowhere to go but down

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Reed Elsevier is getting dangerously "boring" – good boring, of course, but dull none the less. How else to characterise yet another set of robust figures, with half-year underlying profits up 12 per cent and another faultless acquisition, in the form of legal publisher Tolley?

The market had been hoping for a big deal, with the names of Reuters, Bloomberg, even Pearson bandied about as takeover targets. In the event, £100m for United News & Media's Tolley, while certainly expensive, is small beer for a £60m company with net debt of a paltry £250m and interest covered a more than comfortable 19 times.

The City had become used to the company deriving its earnings growth in equal measure from acquisitions and continuing businesses. But since the decision to sell newspapers and consumer magazines, the trend has been toward relying on organic growth to push ahead. Yesterday's interim figures prove that Reed doesn't need to buy companies to keep up the momentum.

There were a few weak spots, of course. The travel information business saw profits decline as the general market moved away from Reed's "hard copy" products and toward on-line services it has yet to develop fully. But management has started to tackle the problem, and expects to reverse the trend by next year, with the introduction of new electronic products.

On the whole, the main businesses showed sharp growth, with legal and other professional product lines leading the way. The excellent Lexis Nexis subsidiary – one of the best buys Reed ever made – is a clear market leader in the area of "must-have" information, for which customers are willing, indeed obliged, to pay a premium.

The Tolley acquisition in the UK complements the existing business grouped under Reed's Butterworth subsidiary. Where the former is strong on the so-called "first point of reference" end of the market, Butterworth dominates the specialist legal and tax sectors. The combination also allows Reed to market the Tolley products – tax guides, for example – to its existing business client base.

The problem is that Reed is performing so well there is really nowhere to go but down. It is a highly rated stock, with a strong – indeed near unassailable – position in its key markets of professional and business information. Those markets offer huge profit margins to the leaders, and come complete with high barriers to entry for any would-be competitor.

This year, the City expects profits of £810m, rising to perhaps £920m. At cur-

rent year earnings of about 56p a share, the stock is on a multiple of 20 times – justifiable given the quality of earnings, and the consistency of returns, but the upside cannot be huge.

Dull outlook at Westminster

Westminster Healthcare's unsuccessful bid for rival nursing home operator Goldborough last month put the City spotlight on a relatively neglected sector. The rationale of the offer was that after a boom period, nursing home operators have run into a tougher market as local authority healthcare budgets are squeezed. The oew growth areas are home care services, where patients are treated at home, or other short-term care facilities where fee income is higher.

Westminster is trying to diversify into these new areas and the bid for Goldborough would have provided a handy short-cut. The bid's failure cost £2.7m in fees which will appear as an excep-

tional item in next year's accounts. But the message Westminster was trying to get across yesterday is that the nursing home market is not the dead end some have portrayed.

Results for the year to May showed a 27 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £17.6m. The company says its occupancy rates have picked up again after a flu epidemic and that the market is due for a shake-out. Chief executive Pat Mortoo says the fears over the nursing home sector are overdone. He sees some capacity coming out and demand continuing to grow. He also feels the squeeze on local authority budgets will ease. This may be wishful thinking but Mr Mortoo points out that the sector grew by 7 per cent last year. Encouraging, but Westminster admits that its new homes are taking longer to fill than three years ago. With 500 oew beds coming on to the market from Westminster alone this year, that is hardly going to ease the over-supply problem.

Westminster is trying to expand its non-nursing home activities. Fourteen per cent of group operating profits came from specialist services compared to just 2 per cent the year before. Next year

the company hopes to boost that figure to over 20 per cent. It has made some sound acquisitions in areas such as disabled housing though there is a dearth of quality companies for Westminster to snap up.

Westminster's shares have fallen sharply following the bid, though they closed 1p higher yesterday at 28½p. On forecast profits of £22m they trade on a forward rating of 10. Unexciting.

McKechnie just keeps growing

McKechnie has shaken off the tag of Midlands metal-basher and looks in danger of acquiring a new image as an acquisitive little conglomerate. It has certainly been a busy year and yesterday's placing, acquisition and profits forecast capped a year in which it has already spent £70m in cash, a fair outlay compared with a market value of under £500m.

No surprise in those circumstances that the latest deal – the £15.25m acquisition of industrial fastener maker Dzus – is to be funded with oew shares, or that the company should take the opportunity to raise another £23.5m for the oew purchase, which apparently won't be long in coming.

Dzus (pronounced Zeus) looks a good buy. Earnings-enhancing from day one, it occupies a nice little niche in the sort of heavy-duty clips that give quick and easy access in a whole range of applications – aircraft engines, the bit of carpet covering the tyre in your car boot, big computer installations. There is a good geographical spread to the business and a useful diversity of market sectors.

Investors seemed pretty relaxed about the deal and placing, adding 2p to the share price, which closed at 300p, 20p higher than the level at which the share issues are being pitched.

The fact that profits for the year to July just finished were confirmed at around market expectations of £49.5m helped.

McKechnie had a remarkably steady run over the past five years, growing earnings from 17p in 1991 to an estimated 37.5p for the year just ended. That is an attractive compound growth rate of over 15 per cent.

Compared with that rate of improvement, with more of the same to come according to forecasts, the shares trade on a relatively undemanding price/earnings ratio of 11. Don't expect any fireworks but this is a good share to tuck away.

TV crews devise ways to collar Eddie George

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK

Eddie George is well known among television economics reporters for hiding from the broadcast media whenever he is about to say something important.

The Governor of the Bank of England would prefer to address newspaper journalists when recommending that interest rates should go up, for instance, since the journalists' musings will only be read the next day.

Eddie's cover was blown this week when a sly TV crew from BSkyB turned up on the Governor's doorstep at home and prodded some comments from him about rates.

A rival, terrestrial broadcaster that shall remain nameless then complained bitterly to the Bank about missing out. The Bank's spokesman retorted: "Well, what do you want us to do? Put an electronic dog collar on him? We can't control him, you know."

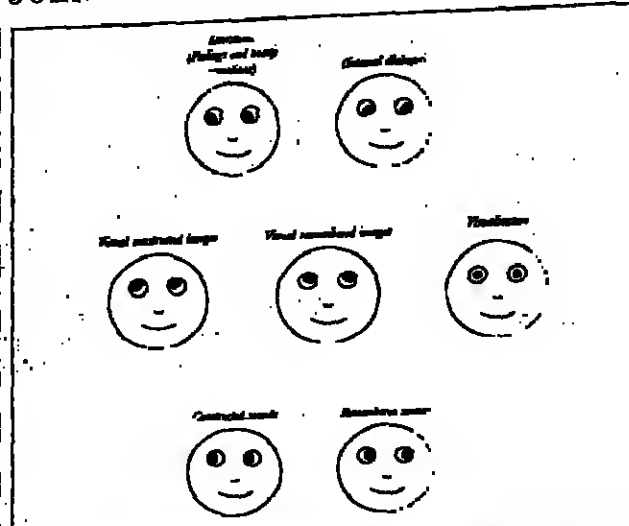
Tag the Governor. This is the way forward.

The Bank of England also has a spanking new suite of conference rooms – underground. A Bank spokesman welcomed journalists to it this week with the words: "Welcome to our new subterranean home."

It would be nice to say that the rooms previously formed a part of the bank's gold vaults, or at least a James Bond-style nuclear bunker, but the truth is more prosaic – they were used to store furniture.

"You can't tunnel through the conference room walls to a sea of gold," the spokesman adds reassuringly.

Which is just as well, since the vast majority of the UK's gold reserves, totalling \$5.2bn, are stored in the Bank. So how deep do the vaults go? "A long way," says the spokesman.



I had no idea selling life insurance could be so, well, groovy. The latest issue of *Prospect*, the monthly magazine from the Life Insurance Association, has an article titled: "Seeing, feeling and tuning in," by Ross McDevitt, a development manager with that well-known bunch of New Age hippies, Allied Dunbar.

The idea is that salespeople can deal more effectively with clients by observing the way their eyes move during a conversation (as illustrated above). For instance, someone in "visual" mode has three eye movements: "If you ask a visual to access some information from their past – 'How did you happen to join the company?' – they will tend to look up their left (visual access) or defocus, looking directly ahead. Conversely, if you ask them to construct or describe something in the future – 'Where do you see yourself in five years?' – their eyes tend to go up their right (visual construct). Reading this, my eyes went up to the ceiling. What does this mean?"

Yes, but how far? "They won't even tell me." Quite right too.

Why split Arthur Andersen into two when you can split it into five? The Hanson-like mania for unbundling seems to have taken the world's only truly global accountancy firm by storm, according to *Accountancy Age*.

For some years now the Chicago-based Leviathan has been pondering whether to spin off the Andersen Consulting arm, which is beginning to outgrow its audit-based parent.

Now Larry Weinbach, chief executive of Andersen Worldwide, the umbrella

organisation for the two sides, has junked a simple demerger.

In its place the firm may split into a number of small "market focused" units. The proposal is to be unveiled to partners at their annual meeting next month.

Scarcely my question why you would go to all the bother of building the only truly global accountancy firm and then, when you had achieved this ultimate goal, promptly go and split it up again.

These guys charge an arm and a leg telling companies how to run themselves. Perhaps Andersen needs some help of its own.

Willis Corroon rejects calls for merger

NIC CICCITI

Willis Corroon, one of the world's top six insurance brokers, yesterday turned its back on mergers with any of its main competitors as it announced a 6 per cent first-half rise in pre-tax profits to £70.6m.

The company said it would concentrate on growing in a number of chosen insurance market sectors around the world. It added that, where nec-

essary, it would go on the takeover trail itself if it felt that organic growth was not taking place fast enough.

John Reeve, executive chairman, said: "Notwithstanding considerable speculation as to the benefits of mergers between the big six global brokers, we have concluded after analysis of the issues that arguments in favour of such combinations are not compelling."

"In particular, cost economies

of scale from such mergers are not likely to be sufficient to confer significant competitive advantage."

However, a spokesman added that the position might change for Willis Corroon if others among the top six did come together.

Mr Reeve was speaking as Willis Corroon revealed a 2 per cent rise in brokerage and commission income of £365.2m in the first half of the year.

Excluding £2.4m from disposals of non-core businesses, profits from the group's operations were 4 per cent higher.

Willis Corroon said that in the second quarter of this year profits from continuing operations reached £20.1m, excluding disposals, 16 per cent up on the same period last year. Brokerage and fee revenue rose 2 per cent to £165.8m.

Mr Reeve said Willis Corroon had worked hard to add

business volume to compensate for the continuing reductions in premiums across all sectors.

Despite some signs of firmer rates in the marine sector, the company continues to predict falling or – at best – stable premiums in the period immediately ahead.

Mr Reeve said the group had carried out an internal review and a new organisational structure would be introduced later in the year.

Willis Corroon is backing Lloyd's of London's reconstruction and renewal programme and is pleased that it appears likely to be adopted. The group expects to pay a five-year annual levy on its business, with a £2.6m payment due later this year. Its members' agency expects to make a one-off contribution of £3.5m.

Both payments will be covered by the release of litigation funds no longer needed.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax E	EPS	Dividend
Barclays Bank (p)	15.8m (14.1m)	0.58m (4.98m)	1.4p (2.5p)	0.55p (0.4p)
Bank of Scotland (p)	19.0m (11.3m)	1.1m (1.2m)	3.2p (5.2p)	1.5p (1.4p)
Barclays Bank (p)	-	0.07m (0.08m)	0.44p (0.59p)	nil (-)
Commerzbank (p)	19.0m (18.2m)	1.52m (0.72m)	1.54p (0.94p)	0.75p (0.5p)
Imperial (p)	-	32.0m (25.8m)	9.1p (8.1p)	2p (1.75p)
Morgan Stanley (p)	119m (77.8m)	2.22m (1.26m)	5.52p (3.3p)	1.25p (0.85p)
Rank (p)	940m (854m)	128m (444m)	10.1p (46.2p)	2p (4.75p)
Reed Elsevier (p)	1.70m (1.81m)	417m (570m)	29p (28.3p)	8.25p (7.5p)
Union (p)	-	3.4m (4.79m)	6.9p (5p)	1.5p (1.5p)
Westminster Healthcare (p)	86.1m (89.5m)	17.8m (13.8m)	23.5p (21.8p)	8p (5.4p)
Willis Corroon (p)	365m (268m)	70.6m (66.2m)	10.7p (9.7p)	1.65p (-)
Wyle (p)	85.8m (55.2m)	5.07m (1.88m)	6.8p (2.9p)	2.25p (1.25p)

(p) = Final (f) = Interim * Comparative figures pre-tax E EPS and dividend for Reed International

COMPLETE UCAS LISTINGS

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INDEPENDENT
ON SUNDAY

THE INDEPENDENT

هكذا من الامم

Somerfield fiasco leaves egg on Kleinwort's face

COMMENT

The fatal error was made right at the start. The sponsors and the company were guilty of being too greedy by putting a price in the window that encouraged institutional shoppers to walk on by.

The spectacle of Kleinwort Benson forlornly wheeling the Somerfield orphan around the company's supermarket rivals in the vain hope that a trade sale might extract a higher price than a flotation rather puts the cap on one of the more humiliating new issues of recent years.

What makes it odder still is that the desperate ring-around of Tesco, Sainsbury's and Co took place long after Kleinwort and Somerfield had cut the offer price for a second time and finally got it underwritten. As sponsor of the issue, Kleinwort was clearly under a duty to maximise proceeds for the vendors. It also needed to protect its back against litigation should any of the shareholders in Isosceles, Somerfield's parent company, claim that the business had been sold too cheaply and reach for their lawyers.

The fatal error, however, was made not at the close of the offer but right at the start. The sponsors and the company were guilty of being too greedy by putting a price in the window that encouraged institutional shoppers to walk on by.

When the inevitable happened and the price was cut for the first time, Kleinwort was on the run and the institutions knew it. Against a backdrop of volatile markets and desperation to get the offer away, all they had to do was sit back and wait for the price to be cut again. And so it was.

Kleinwort justified whittling down the price from 180-190p to 145p by citing the state of the markets. The excuse is only

partly borne out by reality. Between the setting of the indicative price and the final price the FT-SE 100 index fell 1.7 per cent - hardly enough to justify a 22 per cent cut in the offer price.

Few players emerge from this debacle unscathed. David Simons and his fellow directors saw their "beats robbing the bank" bonuses cut back, private investors were treated shabbily by not being allowed to buy more shares at the cheaper price, and Somerfield's banks ended up writing off more debt than they wanted to.

But Kleinwort comes out worst. What with the flop of the British Biotech rights issue, where it was also the sponsor, and the disaster of its European privatisation trust, Kapit, Kleinwort is plainly going through something of a bad patch.

Simon Robertson, Kleinwort's chairman, can only hope and pray that Somerfield does not add still further to his woes by rocketing to an embarrassing premium when the shares start trading today.

Door-to-door insurance deal makes sense

For both shareholders and policyholders of Refuge and United Friendly, yesterday's merger looks like a win, win deal. It was also, perhaps, an inevitable one, for even among the C1 and D social classes from which the two companies draw most of their

customers, life assurance has become a distinctly unfashionable thing. As a consequence, the pressure for consolidation and cost-cutting is on as never before.

Over the next couple of years the combined company plans to cut its workforce by about 25 per cent. Most of the benefit of that will go to policyholders. But there will be a lot left for shareholders too. Add that to the immediate benefits of the release of orphan assets and the effect of the merger will be to lift dividends by 35 per cent for Refuge shareholders and more than 50 per cent for investors in United Friendly. As the cost cuts begin to flow through, there will be more to follow.

The economies of scale to be had by merging in this sector of the market - which involves door-to-door collection of premiums, often in cash - are plainly substantial, but the same sort of logic applies throughout the life assurance industry. There are too many life assurance companies, supporting too many sales teams, chasing too small a market. Despite this, some of the dire predictions made a couple of years back at the time of commission disclosure - that the number of life insurers would halve by the end of the century through mergers and closures - are not coming to pass.

Many of the mutuals are digging in their heels and refusing to contemplate either takeover or merger. In the interests of consumer choice and competition, this is perhaps a good thing. If the deals that are creep-

ing through live up to expectations, however, the refusniks may be forced to rethink their position. The smaller player is going to have to be something quite exceptional to survive in the intensely competitive market place that promises to develop.

Focusing on leisure is risky for Rank

During £50,000 into what was then the new business of photocopyers in the 1950s stands out as one of the greatest corporate investments of all time. On the basis of Rank's conservative £930m book valuation of its remaining interest in Rank Xerox, that initial punt on an interesting new technology is today worth the best part of £5bn.

Getting rid of the rump stake makes good sense both strategically and financially, but focusing on Rank's leisure and entertainment core makes the company considerably riskier. Not least because if you add in the £300m proceeds of other planned disposals, the new chief executive, Andrew Teare, has a worryingly fat chequebook to go with his understandably sketchy knowledge of the leisure business.

If he spends that money wisely, Rank could return to the top table of the British leisure industry from which it has been notably absent for years. But no one should underestimate the challenge, given the uninspiring springboard the rest of the group provides.

Best of the bunch is probably film duplication, and if Hollywood continues to churn out films like *Independence Day* and *Mission Impossible*, Rank will have no problem shipping at least the current million or so videos a day. The digital revolution means the video tape's day is numbered however, and this is probably a case of making hay while the sun shines.

Elsewhere Rank is like a snapshot of 1960s Britain, with a stable of squandered, under-invested and tired brands. Odeon, Butlin's, Top Rank, Mecca - it's hardly the starting point of choice for a man setting out to rebuild a leisure giant.

Hard Rock appears to have become the focus of Rank's attentions. Again buying in franchise operations and working the brand hard with spin-offs such as branded music venues and a record label make sense, but this is a 25-year-old brand where like-for-like sales in the first half were actually lower than in 1995.

It would be churlish to judge Andrew Teare after just three months in the job. But the honeymoon period is certainly over, as the 6 per cent fall in his share price yesterday amply demonstrated. Leisure and going out are destined to remain very high growth areas of consumer spending but finding the formula that attracts the punters remains as hard as ever. Mr Teare might do better to return the Rank Xerox cash direct to shareholders than to embark on a reckless speeding spree.

Reed pays £100m for legal publisher

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Reed Elsevier, the information and publishing giant, yesterday unveiled solid interim results and clinched a £100m deal to buy Tolley, the specialist legal, regulatory and tax publisher, from United News & Media.

The acquisition, small next to the bid talk of recent weeks, disappointed some in the City, and the shares lost some of their froth, closing 5p down at 114.5p. Speculation had centred on a mega-deal to buy Reuters or Bloomberg, the financial information companies, or even an approach to take over and break up Pearson, the media and publishing group that has been a favoured bid candidate.

John Mellon, Reed senior executive, said some of the rumours had stretched credulity. He added that the company was well placed to finance big acquisitions if opportunities arose,

and that the US was likely to be the key target. However, organic growth would provide earnings momentum without more deals.

The results in the year to 30 June were roughly in line with expectations, with the scientific, professional and business operations all posting higher operating profits. All told, pre-tax profits rose 12 per cent to £416m, on revenues down 6 per cent to £1.7bn. The professional division, which groups Reed Legal and Lexis-Nexis, was particularly strong, with operating profits ahead 19 per cent and margins rising by 1 percentage point to 25.4 per cent.

The travel division turned in a disappointing half, largely due to the decline in the market for Reed's traditional paper-based information. The company said it was accelerating efforts to introduce new electronic data products.

The rump of the consumer division, much of which has

been sold off as part of a corporate restructuring announced last year, posted lower growth of about 8 per cent. Consumer books, which the company failed to sell at an acceptable price in an auction earlier this year, was "patchy" Mr Mellon conceded. "We intend to hold on to the company, turn it around, and sell it at a higher price when possible," he added.

The Tolley acquisition was a "perfect fit," Mark Armour, chief financial officer, said. "Their products complement those we already have, and will give us a good position in the market for legal and regulatory information for business."

The company had profits of £4m last year, on revenues of £17m. Analysts said the price, about 25 times operating profits, was very high, but conceded Reed could benefit from running it alongside Butterworth, its existing tax and legal specialist publishing operation.



John Mellon: well placed to finance further deals

Now it's a black hole in cyberspace from AOL

PATRICK TOOHER

It was the hi-tech equivalent of the lights going out all over the world. It was the day AOL went AWOL.

America Online, the world's leading on-line computer service, was finally switched back on yesterday after the biggest black-out in cyberspace left more than 6 million customers world-wide without access to their e-mail and favourite Web sites for almost 19 hours.

The on-line service crashed while new host software essential to operating the system was being installed on Wednesday morning. Normal service was only resumed in the early hours of Thursday.

The shutdown left customers ranging from newspapers such as the *Chicago Tribune* and the *New York Times* to small businesses and home-office workers staring at blank screens.

In Britain, subscribers missed hearing the seductive tones of actress Joanna Lumley greet

them with "Hello" when they logged on and "Goodbye" when they logged off.

Members will be credited for a lost day of service, Steve Casey, AOL chairman and chief operating officer, said.

Jonathan Bulkeley, managing director of America Online in the UK, was contrite. "Since I've been at AOL, this is the worst disaster I've seen," he said in an emotional e-mail to subscribers.

"I remember a flood we had a few years ago where the operations people had to run out and buy aqua-Hoovers to slurp up all the water in the computer room (six hours of downtime), the systems installation that went sour (eight hours downtime) and the transatlantic cables that were turned off for maintenance (seven hours downtime), but I can't remember a day like today."

He added: "I hope this will be the AOL disaster which becomes legendary - 'the day AOL went dark, the outage of '96', a distant memory."

Black-outs are becoming more common on the Internet and on-line services, reflecting the reliability problems that plague computer networks as they become more popular.

In recent months rival on-line services, including that of software giant Microsoft, have been disrupted by serious computer glitches.

The outage came at a sensitive time for AOL, hours before it reported fourth-quarter earnings. The company has already been hit by competition from the Internet, which has caused it to lower subscription fees. At the same time growth in subscriber numbers has slowed. Unhappy customers are the last things it needs.

With that in mind, a weary Mr Bulkeley signed off to his subscribers: "It's now 4:36 am on August 8th and I am going to sleep. Suffice it to say that we do not take this lightly. We do and will do everything possible to keep this from ever happening again."

Competition laws to get teeth

MICHAEL HARRISON

Companies found guilty of operating cartels or abusing their market power could be fined up to 10 per cent of turnover under a draft Bill to reform competition law published yesterday by the Government.

The overhaul of existing laws would also give the Office of Fair Trading powers to raid company premises in search of incriminating evidence of cartels or anti-competitive agreements.

The European Commission's competition directorate has had such powers for a long time.

Until now British competition authorities had been pressing for similar rights but to no avail.

However, the draft Bill unveiled yesterday has yet to be laid before Parliament and some observers believe that it is unlikely to happen before the next election.

Publishing the Tackling Cartels and the Abuse of Market Power draft Bill, the President of the Board of Trade, Ian Lang, would only say he would lay it before Parliament "when the legislative programme permits".

The reform of the law would

replace the Restrictive Trade Practices Act, widely seen as too cumbersome and prescriptive, with a general prohibition of cartels, anti-competitive agreements and concerted practices.

It would also strengthen the powers of the Director General of Fair Trading, John Bridgeman, to tackle abuses of market power under the Fair Trading Act 1973 and the Competition Act 1980.

However, a DTI spokesman said that the proposed law would have no impact on the right of appeal under law that British Telecom is seeking against rulings that the Ofcom di-

rector general Don Cruickshank may make using his own fair trading powers.

The Government's intention to bring forward a draft Bill was foreboded in the Competition White Paper published in June. Comments on the proposed changes are requested by 1 October.

Under the changes there would be a right of appeal to an independent tribunal and, in limited cases, to the High Court. Companies will also be able to apply for exemptions in the case of agreements which breach the new law but provide offsetting benefits.

IN BRIEF

• **Nynex CableComms**, the UK's second-largest cable operator, posted losses of £41.8m in the six months to 30 June, compared with a loss of £57.4m last time, on turnover doubled to £29m. John Kilian, chief executive, said that revenues per line, as well as the overall subscriber base, had improved markedly and the company would be in positive operating cash flow "in the near future". He confirmed that Nynex was in talks with potential partners to launch a local television channel in Greater Manchester. The *Independent* reported yesterday that Granada, Nynex and the *Manchester Evening News* were in talks to set up a channel featuring non-match coverage of Manchester United football club.

• **Complaints against regional electricity companies**, compensation payments and disconnections fell sharply last year, according to the latest customer services report from the industry regulator, Professor Stephen Littlechild. Complaints were down by 22 per cent to 7,584 while payments by RECs for failing to meet standards fell from 5,410 to 3,795. There was also a fall of almost 38 per cent in disconnections for bad debt with none in the London or Seaboard areas. Failures to meet standards rose from 364 to 601 at Swalec, now owned by Welsh Water through the holding company Hyder.

• **Glaxo Wellcome** has won approval from the European Commission to market the anti-HIV treatment Epiriv in the 15 EU member states. Epiriv, licensed in other markets as 3TC, is indicated for use as part of a "drugs cocktail" for the treatment of both adults and teenage children. Glaxo said the new drug will be launched in each EU member state as soon as possible, following price negotiations with national health authorities.

• **Northern Ireland** will gain more than 110 new jobs due to expansion by two engineering companies in Belfast. Mackie International is to build a new factory at its Springvale foundry site while Thrige Scott, a subsidiary of Denmark's Thrige-Titan, is expanding its existing plant. Baroness Denton, Northern Ireland economy minister, said investments totalling more than £240m promised at least 2,600 new jobs during the next six years.

• **Union**, the financial services group, bounced back to a £3.4m pre-tax profit for the six months to 30 June 1996 after a loss of £792,000 last time. John Schlaier, Union's chairman, said he expects to announce shortly a sale and leaseback of Union's historic City office at 39 Cornhill.

• **Nokia**, the Finnish electronics group, announced a 56 per cent drop in second-quarter profits to 728m markka (£106m), compared with 1.67bn markka over the same period last year. Although the mobile phones business showed a "slight operating profit" after a loss-making first quarter, the level was still "significantly lower" than the same period in 1995.

NatWest severs Spanish link with £123m sale

NIC CICUTTI

National Westminster Bank yesterday brought to a formal close its independent presence in the Spanish retail banking market when it sold 80 per cent of Banco NatWest Espana to Banco Sabadell for £123m.

The UK bank still has an option to sell the rest of the business to Banco Sabadell between 1999 and 2001 at a minimum price of £31m.

Banking analysts said a sell-off of NatWest's remaining holding was likely to take place at the earliest possible date.

NatWest said its investment banking arm, NatWest Markets, would continue to strengthen its presence and activities in Spain, while its private bank Coutts would provide cross-border banking services to Spanish residents.

The sale price is 1.3 times above net asset value. After the reinstatement of £50m in goodwill previously written off by NatWest, the sale of the Spanish operation will show as a loss of about £25m.

Banco Sabadell and its regional subsidiary in the Asturias region will merge Banco NatWest's operation with its own to create 600 branches throughout Spain.

The sale, first announced in June, marks another step in NatWest's strategy of concentrating on markets where it can develop "a major and profitable presence". In the past few years it has divested itself of retail operations in France, Australia, and the Netherlands.

British banks, including NatWest, have had difficulty in making significant profits on the retail side in Spain because margins are tight and competition from indigenous banking groups is strong.

Over the past year, NatWest has moved to consolidate its strategy of concentrating on retail banking in Britain and Ireland, investment banking and private banking.

It has sold NatWest Bankcorp, its US retail arm, for £2.5bn (£1.75bn) and bought Gartmore, the fund manager, for £470m. It recently added Greenwich Capital, the US private equity dealer, for \$590m.

In recent years, analysts had criticised the bank for a lack of strategy but they are now more comfortable with its direction, which includes a large restructuring of its UK branch network.

NatWest placed markets last week when it bought back £450m of its own shares, leaving room for more repurchases.

Heinz Record Year for Heinz

I am pleased to report that H.J. Heinz Company achieved record earnings in Fiscal 1996. Global sales reached US\$9.1 billion for the year, more than US\$1 billion higher than the record set last year. Earnings per share progressed in kind, increasing 10% to US\$1.75 from US\$1.59. Operating income increased 11% from US\$1.18 billion to US\$1.29 billion. Heinz continues to be attractive to investors seeking consistent, double-digit earnings growth. Over the past two years, Heinz's stock price appreciated 52% during a period that saw a major secondary stock offering of nearly 21.8 million shares, a three-for-two stock split and two dividend increases. The total return over that period for Heinz shareholders who reinvested their dividends was 67%, or more than 29% compounded annually.

Looking ahead, Heinz has excellent growth opportunities in six core categories where we are driving for global leadership. These categories are: foodservice; infant foods; retail ketchup and condiments; petfood; tuna; and weight control.

What distinguished these categories is that they are all very large; they are all growing globally; and, more importantly, they are all businesses in which Heinz enjoys leading brand positions and unique resources. We should also note that 28 of our brands will, this year, record sales of US\$100 million or more. Five additional brands are on the US\$100 million threshold. In summary, our growth plan is clear and achievable. We will continue to strengthen worldwide leadership and leverage in our six core categories. We will consolidate our acquisitions, relentlessly cut costs and attain higher standards in production efficiency. We will continue to grow overseas, with particular emphasis on emerging markets.

Sales	US\$9.11 billion
Net Income Before Tax	US\$1.02 billion
Net Income	US\$659 million

As I told security analysts last March, Heinz management possess unique skills in marketing, operations and finance and in the mysterious art of making profits, and we are fortunate to be backed by the dedication of our 43,300 co-workers worldwide. Together, we are committed to achieving double-digit growth in Fiscal 1997 and to attaining and expanding world leadership in our six core categories.

Dr. A.J.F. O'Reilly

The above is extracted from the statement to shareholders of H.J. Heinz Company by the Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. A.J.F. O'Reilly, for the year to May 1996. The contents of this advertisement for which the Directors of H.J. Heinz Company accept responsibility have been approved for the purposes of Section 57 of the Financial Services Act 1986 by Capgem & Co., a firm authorized by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales to carry on investment business. It must be stressed that the value of shares can fall as well as rise and that the past is not necessarily a guide to the future.

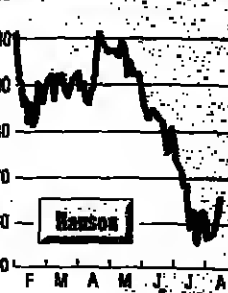
market report/shares

DATA BANK

FT-SE 100
3811.4 +0.3
FT-SE 250
4318.9 +9.6
FT-SE 350
1907.0 +1.0
SEAQ VOLUME
638.3m shares,
30,561 bargains
Gilt Index
93.24 -0.26

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

share price, pence



US buying brings unloved conglomerates in from cold

TAKING STOCK

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

A rare event – the stock market's two leading and unloved conglomerates suddenly attracted a rush of investment support. Hanson was the best-performing blue chip, up 9.25p at 166.5p, and BTR came in with a 9.3p gain to 258p.

Both are still deep in the doldrums and a far cry from their 12-month highs. But their combined rally could be the first sign that, perhaps, the worst is behind them.

Hanson, 221p in September, has slithered as conglomerates lost their appeal and its creator, Lord Hanson, attempted to arrest the decline by signalling the end of the concept by splitting the group into four stand-alone companies.

The break-up, however, has not won much support, despite some analysts suggesting a split value approaching 240p. Special costs and fears of huge tax bills have undermined sentiment.

American investors prompted the rally. They were active overnight and again displayed interest late in the session. The US buying prompted speculation Hanson may have decided to sell at least one of its divisions before the demerger.

The chemical side and the Imperial Tobacco business seem the most likely candidates.

There were also suggestions the conglomerate would accompany next week's third-quarter figures with an upbeat demerger progress report.

BTR's advance reflected an announcement its interim results would be declared on 12 September. Fears they will be disappointing with the dividend cut has sent the shares spinning lower; they have fallen from 300p in May.

The warrants, expiring 30 days after the interim figures are posted, jumped 2.75p to 6.5p. The rally lifted the shares to the 258p exercise price.



There have been suggestions BTR is oversold and a poor performance is already discounted. The uplift shows, now the results date is known, that some are prepared to bank on the group confounding its detractors.

Shares maintained – just – their winning run with the FT-SE 100 index closing 0.3 points higher at 3,811.4. It was the seventh consecutive gain.

Insurances came to life following the surprise Refuge-United Friendly merger. UP surged 10p to 839p; London & Manchester 33p to 381p and Britannia rose 10p to 763p. But Refuge fell 22p to 408p and thoughts that the new group

represents tougher competition left Prudential 13p off at 419p.

Schroders, the merchant bank, enjoyed a heady run, partly on the return of bid speculation. The shares rose 43p to 1,328p with the non-voters up 30p to 998p.

BAT Industries was lowered to 509.5p on talk the US Food and Drug Administration intended to classify tobacco as a drug. Glaxo Wellcome was little changed at 893p as its Epirix Aids drug was licensed in the UK and Europe.

British Biotech continued to give ground, off 13p at 211p. On the Credit Lyonnais Laing caution but little Polymase

maintained its progress, up 5p to 149p. It has gained 27p this week.

The Rentokil services group improved 16p to 420p, a two-day gain of 28.5p. Figures are due later this month and there are hopes they will demonstrate the merits of the group's contested takeover of BET.

British Gas, on reports it was near a breakthrough in its protracted talks on its North Sea take-or-pay deals, broke through 200p for the first time since May. The shares reached 202p, up 5p.

Railtrack stretched to a peak, up 6p to 237p. The dividend yield and the takeover activity in the industry prompted the buying.

Rank Organisation was the worst-performing blue chip, off 27p to 441p on disappointment with its planned revamp. Colleagues, a direct marketing group, collapsed 107p to 148p on a warning.

Whitbread, which lifted its stake in bid target Pelican to 9.9 per cent, gained 9.5p to 697p although the Office of Fair Trading is probing the takeover of the restaurant chain.

Mirror Group rose a further 5.5p to 198p on the NatWest Securities upgrading and United News & Media added 24p to 679p on its £100.5m Tolley sale. Elmehien, regarded as a United target, fell another 7p to 406p on the lack of action.

Antony, the gearbox designer which motored to 151p last year as hopes of spectacular contracts with large motor groups swirled around, fell 3p to 48p.

William Jacks, a garage group heading for an unquoted exit following an 80p offer from its controlling shareholder, motored 27p to 75p.

Jorvic, formerly Baris, returned at 61p from an equivalent suspension price of 37p.

□ Nomura, the Japanese securities house, has acquired a stake for public. It has built a 7.58 per cent interest in Paramount, the North-western pubs chain valued at £28m. Bass, Burtonwood Brewery and Greenall's are already on the company's share register. It is Nomura's second public involvement. Interests related to the Japanese group already own the unquoted Phoenix Inns with 1,750 pubs. Paramount shares shaded to 6.75p.

□ Silkbar, a group headed by Paul Edwards, is buying the Robert Fraser financial business. Fraser's chairman Colin Edwards replaces Mr Edwards as head of Silkbar, unchanged at 2p.

□ Tullow Oil rose 5p to a 95.5p peak as its £38m rights issue enjoyed a 90.13 per cent take-up.

Alcoholic Beverages

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.4	
Beck's	1.4	
Carlsberg	1.4	
Heineken	1.4	
Interbrew	1.4	
Kaiser	1.4	
Miller	1.4	
Orkla	1.4	
Reckitt	1.4	
Stout	1.4	
Watson	1.4	

Banks, Merchant

Company	Price	Change
Barclays	1.4	
Bank of Scotland	1.4	
Bank of Ireland	1.4	
Bank of London	1.4	
Bank of Montreal	1.4	
Bank of New York	1.4	
Bank of Paris	1.4	
Bank of Spain	1.4	
Bank of Tokyo	1.4	
Bank of West	1.4	
Bank of America	1.4	

Banks, Retail

Company	Price	Change
ABN-Amro	1.4	
ABN-Amro	1.4	
ABN-Amro	1.4	
ABN-Amro	1.4	
ABN-Amro	1.4	
ABN-Amro	1.4	
ABN-Amro	1.4	
ABN-Amro	1.4	
ABN-Amro	1.4	
ABN-Amro	1.4	

Breweries, Pubs & Rest

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.4	
Beck's	1.4	
Carlsberg	1.4	
Heineken	1.4	
Interbrew	1.4	
Kaiser	1.4	
Miller	1.4	
Orkla	1.4	
Reckitt	1.4	
Stout	1.4	
Watson	1.4	

Building/Construction

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.4	
Beck's	1.4	
Carlsberg	1.4	
Heineken	1.4	
Interbrew	1.4	
Kaiser	1.4	
Miller	1.4	
Orkla	1.4	
Reckitt	1.4	
Stout	1.4	
Watson	1.4	

Building Materials

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.4	
Beck's	1.4	
Carlsberg	1.4	
Heineken	1.4	
Interbrew	1.4	
Kaiser	1.4	
Miller	1.4	
Orkla	1.4	
Reckitt	1.4	
Stout	1.4	
Watson	1.4	

Chemicals

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.4	
Beck's	1.4	
Carlsberg	1.4	
Heineken	1.4	
Interbrew	1.4	
Kaiser	1.4	
Miller	1.4	
Orkla	1.4	
Reckitt	1.4	
Stout	1.4	
Watson	1.4	

Electronics

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.4	
Beck's	1.4	
Carlsberg	1.4	
Heineken	1.4	
Interbrew	1.4	
Kaiser	1.4	
Miller	1.4	
Orkla	1.4	
Reckitt	1.4	
Stout	1.4	
Watson	1.4	

Engineering

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.4	
Beck's	1.4	
Carlsberg	1.4	
Heineken	1.4	
Interbrew	1.4	
Kaiser	1.4	
Miller	1.4	
Orkla	1.4	
Reckitt	1.4	
Stout	1.4	
Watson	1.4	

Food Manufacturers

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.4	
Beck's	1.4	
Carlsberg	1.4	
Heineken	1.4	
Interbrew	1.4	
Kaiser	1.4	
Miller	1.4	
Orkla	1.4	
Reckitt	1.4	
Stout	1.4	
Watson	1.4	

Food Distributors

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.4	
Beck's	1.4	
Carlsberg	1.4	
Heineken	1.4	
Interbrew	1.4	
Kaiser	1.4	
Miller	1.4	
Orkla	1.4	
Reckitt	1.4	
Stout	1.4	
Watson	1.4	

Food Retailers

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.4	
Beck's	1.4	
Carlsberg	1.4	
Heineken	1.4	
Interbrew	1.4	
Kaiser	1.4	
Miller	1.4	
Orkla	1.4	
Reckitt	1.4	
Stout	1.4	
Watson	1.4	

Food Wholesalers

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.4	
Beck's	1.4	
Carlsberg	1.4	
Heineken	1.4	
Interbrew	1.4	
Kaiser	1.4	
Miller	1.4	
Orkla	1.4	
Reckitt	1.4	
Stout	1.4	
Watson	1.4	

Food Manufacturers

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.4	
Beck's	1.4	
Carlsberg	1.4	
Heineken	1.4	
Interbrew	1.4	
Kaiser	1.4	
Miller	1.4	
Orkla	1.4	
Reckitt	1.4	
Stout	1.4	
Watson	1.4	

Food Distributors

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.4	
Beck's	1.4	
Carlsberg	1.4	
Heineken	1.4	
Interbrew	1.4	
Kaiser	1.4	
Miller	1.4	
Orkla	1.4	
Reckitt	1.4	
Stout	1.4	
Watson	1.4	

Food Retailers

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.4	
Beck's	1.4	
Carlsberg	1.4	
Heineken	1.4	
Interbrew	1.4	
Kaiser	1.4	
Miller	1.4	
Orkla	1.4	
Reckitt	1.4	
Stout	1.4	
Watson	1.4	

Food Wholesalers

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.4	
Beck's	1.4	
Carlsberg	1.4	
Heineken	1.4	
Interbrew	1.4	
Kaiser	1.4	
Miller	1.4	
Orkla	1.4	
Reckitt	1.4	
Stout	1.4	
Watson	1.4	

Diversified Industrials

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.4	
Beck's	1.4	
Carlsberg	1.4	
Heineken	1.4	
Interbrew	1.4	
Kaiser	1.4	
Miller	1.4	
Orkla	1.4	
Reckitt	1.4	
Stout	1.4	
Watson	1.4	

Engineering Vehicles

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.4	
Beck's	1.4	
Carlsberg	1.4	
Heineken	1.4	
Interbrew	1.4	
Kaiser	1.4	
Miller	1.4	
Orkla	1.4	
Reckitt	1.4	
Stout	1.4	
Watson	1.4	

Extractive Industries

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.4	
Beck's	1.4	
Carlsberg	1.4	
Heineken	1.4	
Interbrew	1.4	
Kaiser	1.4	
Miller	1.4	
Orkla	1.4	
Reckitt	1.4	
Stout	1.4	
Watson	1.4	

Food Manufacturers

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.4	
Beck's	1.4	
Carlsberg	1.4	
Heineken	1.4	
Interbrew	1.4	
Kaiser	1.4	
Miller	1.4	
Orkla	1.4	
Reckitt	1.4	
Stout	1.4	
Watson	1.4	

Food Distributors

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.4	
Beck's	1.4	
Carlsberg	1.4	
Heineken	1.4	
Interbrew	1.4	
Kaiser	1.4	
Miller	1.4	
Orkla	1.4	
Reckitt	1.4	
Stout	1.4	
Watson	1.4	

Food Retailers

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.4	
Beck's	1.4	
Carlsberg	1.4	
Heineken	1.4	
Interbrew	1.4	
Kaiser	1.4	
Miller	1.4	
Orkla	1.4	
Reckitt	1.4	
Stout	1.4	
Watson	1.4	

Food Wholesalers

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.4	
Beck's	1.4	
Carlsberg	1.4	
Heineken	1.4	
Interbrew	1.4	
Kaiser	1.4	
Miller	1.4	
Orkla	1.4	
Reckitt	1.4	
Stout	1.4	
Watson	1.4	

Food Manufacturers

238	353	Heineken	1.4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00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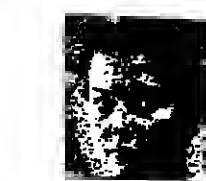
A degree is still the key to better job prospects

Whatever happened to graduate unemployment? The teenagers who pick up their A-level results next week may be rather keen to find out as they contemplate their university decisions. After all, there's not much point in staying on, just to join the dole queue heavily in debt, three years later.

Prospective first-year undergraduates should take heart. It's true that in the early Nineties, when it could hardly turn the pages of a national newspaper without reading another feature about the plight of the over-educated and out-of-work. But all that angst about the wasted potential of the elite was misplaced. Now the economy is growing, highly qualified young people are finding work and earning more than ever. It is the teenagers who will be getting exam results next week (because they never made it to A-levels) who should be concerned about it.

New graduates did have a bad time during the recession. Their expectations were swelled by watching friends swim into highly paid jobs in the Eighties. When the graduates of the early Nineties left university, wide-eyed and bushy-tailed, they discovered that firms weren't recruiting, bank interest charges were mounting, and countless others like them were competing for the same few jobs. No wonder so many of them were out of work.

In fact, graduate unemployment was just one aspect of a wider phenomenon: rising youth unemployment. Between 1989 and 1994, the proportion of young people (age 20-24) on the dole rose from 10.4 per cent to 18.3 per cent. For young women the increase was less spectacular, rising from 8.9 per cent to 10.7 per cent - although the figures are complicated by the fact that women are more likely to drop out of the labour



INDUSTRY VIEW YVETTE COOPER

market altogether when jobs are scarce, choosing perhaps to have children instead. But either way, unemployment among the young rose much faster than for their older colleagues: male unemployment (age 25-54) rose from 6 per cent to 9.8 per cent, women's from 4.4 per cent to 5 per cent.

So what is it with the young? Why have employers taken the recession on particularly hard in the under-25s? One possibility is that the distinctive talents of youth are less in demand

France and the US, for example, these sectors account for more than 40 per cent of youth employment. If youth-intensive industries were in decline, that might explain such high youth unemployment. But the opposite is true: retail and catering services, for example, are expanding.

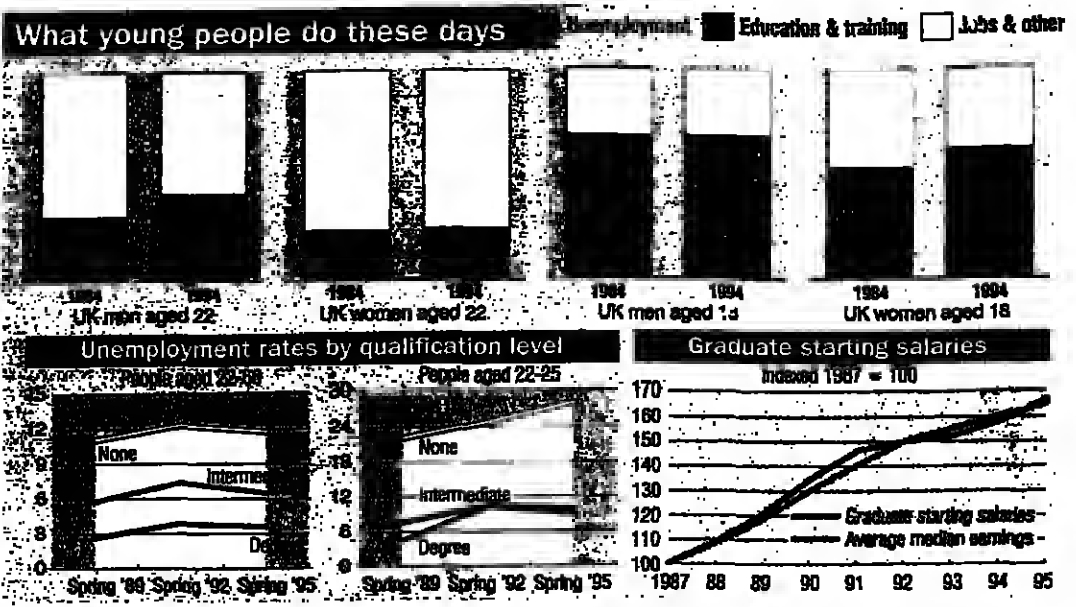
Blanchflower finds that young people are not less committed to work than everyone else. When people were asked whether they thought work was a person's most important activity, employees under 25 were

None of this should be too surprising. Economists have long maintained that the youth labour market is particularly sensitive to economic conditions. Young people are always chopping and changing. Whether it be from school to jobs, or jobs to university, or temporary work to permanent work, or one disastrous career experiment to another, the under-25s are far less likely than older workers to finish a year in the same place all that changing makes young people particularly vulnerable when recession strikes. The first thing companies do when money is tight, it's stopping recruiting. "Natural wastage" is called, when employers avoid filling vacancies instead of laying existing staff off. Inevitably the people to feel the pain are the bright young things straight out of university or school, who were knocking on the company door.

Now that the economy is growing, companies are recruiting again and young people are getting jobs. Unemployment for them in their early 20s fell by 16,000 in the last year alone, and from 17.6 per cent in the spring of 1993 to 12.7 per cent in spring this year.

But these figures don't tell the whole story - and they certainly don't tell us what has been happening to those jobless young graduates that everyone made such a fuss about a few years ago.

In fact, graduates are doing fine. Although there are more of them competing for jobs, their employment prospects are still improving. According to the Higher Education Careers Service Unit, graduate vacancies advertised with their rose by 10 per cent this year compared with last - faster than the rise in the number of graduates. The Association of



Graduate Recruiters forecast a similar pattern in the coming year. In fact, some of the big companies the association represents expect to have difficulty filling all their vacancies - especially in computer science, finance and engineering.

Moreover, graduate wages are rising fast again. Starting salaries in traditional graduate jobs are increasing faster than average earnings once more, despite the supposed glut in the supply of young people with degrees. Now at around £14,700 (with 10 per cent over £18,500), average graduate starting salaries have risen 5.3 per cent this year.

But what about everyone else? Graduates apart, the story for the young is rather more bleak. In fact, the difference between the experience of young graduates and their

unqualified former classmates since the end of the recession is startling. According to the Employment Policy Institute, the Government's figures show that 22 to 25-year-olds with degrees saw their unemployment rate rise from 4.5 per cent in spring 1989 to 10.4 per cent in 1992. As the graph shows, by spring 1995 it had fallen to 9.1 per cent again, and is bound to be considerably lower by now.

But for the 22 to 25-year-olds with no qualifications the picture, even during the recovery, is bleak. Their unemployment rate rose from 22.1 per cent in 1989 to 24.9 per cent in 1992. Despite three years of economic growth, unskilled unemployment rose even further by spring 1995 to 28.2 per cent.

ten youth unemployment problem. But it has nothing to do with the bright young things looking for jobs this summer with their degree results clutched tightly in their hands.

Nor should the teenagers who have just received their A-level grades be put off university by the prospect of unemployment further down the line. Even if the first few months after finals are difficult, lifelong prospects for those with degrees are rosy. Unemployment among graduates of all ages is only 3.6 per cent, compared with 7 per cent in the population as a whole and 11.8 per cent of the unskilled. We shouldn't be too bothered about graduate unemployment in Britain. It is the teenagers who have nothing to hope for from their GCSE results later in the month who are really in trouble.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	1.5496	7.4	10.00
Germany	2.2498	11.3	13.73
France	2.3004	49.41	140.10
Italy	2.0545	48.83	142.86
Japan	167.01	75.70	225.28
ECU	1.2232	15.11	45.40
Denmark	16.538	16.31	47.25
Netherlands	2.0825	65.57	178.74
Sweden	10.9634	7.7	20.14
Norway	9.9923	20.50	30.80
Spain	165.38	21.31	68.08
Switzerland	1.2284	0.4	1.0
Australia	1.0887	30.41	67.85
Hong Kong	1.1937	10.61	22.10
Malaysia	3.8989	0.0	0.0
New Zealand	2.2228	43.57	133.55
Singapore	2.5193	0.0	0.0

Other Spot Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
Argentina	16.480	0.000	0.000
Australia	1.0887	30.41	67.85
China	12.873	0.000	0.000
Egypt	0.9432	0.000	0.000
France	2.3004	49.41	140.10
Germany	2.2498	11.3	13.73
India	55.3983	0.000	0.000
Kenya	0.4641	0.000	0.000

Interest Rates

Country	Rate
UK	5.75%
France	5.75%
Germany	5.75%
Italy	7.00%
Japan	5.75%
Sweden	5.75%
Switzerland	5.75%
Australia	5.75%
Hong Kong	5.75%
Malaysia	5.75%
New Zealand	5.75%
Singapore	5.75%

Bond Yields

Country	Yield
UK	7.1%
France	7.1%
Germany	7.1%
Italy	7.1%
Japan	7.1%
Sweden	7.1%
Switzerland	7.1%
Australia	7.1%
Hong Kong	7.1%
Malaysia	7.1%
New Zealand	7.1%
Singapore	7.1%

Money Market Rates

Country	Rate
UK	5.75%
France	5.75%
Germany	5.75%
Italy	7.00%
Japan	5.75%
Sweden	5.75%
Switzerland	5.75%
Australia	5.75%
Hong Kong	5.75%
Malaysia	5.75%
New Zealand	5.75%
Singapore	5.75%

Life Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open
Long UK	10.00	10.00	10.00
Short UK	10.00	10.00	10.00
Long US	10.00	10.00	10.00
Short US	10.00	10.00	10.00

Industrial Metals

Commodity	Price
Aluminum	1435.45
Copper	1270.50
Gold	380.00
Iron	100.00
Nickel	785.75
Platinum	1000.00
Silver	15.00
Zinc	100.00

Precious Metals

Commodity	Price
Gold	380.00
Silver	15.00
Platinum	1000.00
Palladium	100.00

Life FT-SE Index Option

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open
Long UK	10.00	10.00	10.00
Short UK	10.00	10.00	10.00
Long US	10.00	10.00	10.00
Short US	10.00	10.00	10.00

Energy

Commodity	Price
Oil	10.00
Gas	10.00
Coal	10.00

Commodity Indices

Index	Value
Oil	10.00
Gas	10.00
Coal	10.00

Latest Unit Trust Prices

Stock	Sell	Buy	Ytd	Stock	Sell	Buy	Ytd	Stock	Sell	Buy	Ytd	Stock	Sell	Buy	Ytd
AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	10.00	10.00	10.00	Monthly Income Plus	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00
AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	10.00	10.00	10.00	Monthly Income Plus	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00
AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	10.00	10.00	10.00	Monthly Income Plus	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00
AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	10.00	10.00	10.00	Monthly Income Plus	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00
AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	10.00	10.00	10.00	Monthly Income Plus	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00
AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	10.00	10.00	10.00	Monthly Income Plus	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00
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AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	10.00	10.00	10.00	Monthly Income Plus	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00
AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	10.00	10.00	10.00	Monthly Income Plus	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00
AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	10.00	10.00	10.00	Monthly Income Plus	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00
AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	10.00	10.00	10.00	Monthly Income Plus	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00
AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	10.00	10.00	10.00	Monthly Income Plus	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00
AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	10.00	10.00	10.00	Monthly Income Plus	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00
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AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	10.00	10.00	10.00	Monthly Income Plus	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00
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AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	10.00	10.00	10.00	Monthly Income Plus	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00
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AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	10.00	10.00	10.00	Monthly Income Plus	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00
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AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	10.00	10.00	10.00	Monthly Income Plus	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00
AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	10.00	10.00	10.00	Monthly Income Plus	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00	Global Growth	10.00	10.00	10.00
AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	10.00	10.00	10.												

THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

PHILIPS
Let's make things better



Play INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL

You've seen the rest now play the best in The Independent and the Independent on Sunday. Independent Fantasy Football, supported by Philips Energy Saver Light Bulbs, brings you the first real innovation in fantasy football allowing you to pick the playing formation of your team. You can opt for a defensive strategy with five defenders, three midfielders and two strikers in a 5-3-2 formation, or go on the attack with three strikers in a 4-3-3 line-up. Complete your team with a goalkeeper and a Premiership manager and you'll be ready for kick-off. To put your title-winning team together you have a budget of £40 million to spend. It is up to you how you spend the money, with no restrictions on the number of players you can choose from any one Premiership team. Look carefully and you will find some real bargains, with Alan Shearer on sale for the fantasy price of £11.1 million!

So take up the challenge and prove your skill as a manager to win a football fan's dream prize and the opportunity to gloat over friends and colleagues well into the 1997-98 season.

PRIZES

The overall winner at the end of the season will be the entrant who has accrued more points than any other Independent Fantasy Football team in that time. Win the ultimate prize - a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. The winner, plus companion, will see all the action of a quarter-final and a semi-final of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring team each month will win a pair of tickets to one of England's World Cup qualifying games at Wembley.

HOW TO ENTER

Using your football knowledge decide your team formation from the following four options:

FORMATION A. 4-4-2

4 Defenders, 4 Midfielders, 2 Strikers

FORMATION B. 4-3-3

4 Defenders, 3 Midfielders, 3 Strikers

FORMATION C. 5-3-2

5 Defenders, 3 Midfielders, 2 Strikers

FORMATION D. 3-5-2

3 Defenders, 5 Midfielders, 2 Strikers

You are free to enter as many teams as you wish, allowing you to try out more than one tactical formation, but each team must be made as a separate entry via a separate telephone call.

Once you have chosen your formation, select your team of 10 players to fit your chosen option, plus one goalkeeper and



one manager from the list below. Players can only play in the positions that they are listed under and the team's total value must not exceed £40 million. Remember to give your team a name.

Use our Team Selection form above right, to make a note of your team's details, then dial our registration hotline to register. Where possible, please try to use a home telephone, although a traditional pulse telephone can be used if necessary. Make sure you follow the instructions on the phone line carefully. At the end of your call you will be given your own special PIN number, which you must keep safe. It can be added to your Team Selection form.

HOW TO SCORE

Every time one of your players scores a goal you will be awarded four points. Four points will also be awarded for goalkeepers and defenders whose team have kept a clean sheet during a match. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e. if there is a one-goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded one bonus point in addition to the stan-

dard four points awarded for that goal. Each successful assist (a pass that, in the opinion of our team of experts, leads directly to a goal) will give a player three points. The opinion of our experts on this matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point.

Players lose one point for a yellow card and three for a red card. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count for scoring purposes.

The Premiership manager that you choose will be awarded three points if their real-life team win, one point if they draw and no points if they lose.

Results will be published in The Independent every Wednesday for all games played from the previous Monday to Sunday inclusive. They will also appear the following Sunday, in the Independent on Sunday.

Look out for transfer opportunities which will be announced during the season. Please read the Rules and Conditions carefully before making your call.

Team Selection Form

Name	Code	Value
Goalkeeper		
Defender 1		
Defender 2		
Defender 3		
Defender 4		
Defender 5		
Midfielder 1		
Midfielder 2		
Midfielder 3		
Midfielder 4		
Midfielder 5		
Striker 1		
Striker 2		
Striker 3		
Manager		
PIN No.	Total £	

Team Name: _____

POINT SCORES:
4 points for a goal ■ 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet ■ 3 points for a successful assist ■ 1 point when a player is selected and plays ■ 1 point for a winning goal ■ 3 points for a manager win, 1 point for a draw ■ Lose 1 point for a yellow card ■ Lose 3 points for a red card

Register today, call:

UK 0891-252-244 (tone)

UK 0891-252-234 (pulse)

Republic of Ireland: 1550 131 553

UK calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p at all other times. Republic of Ireland calls cost 59p per minute including VAT at all times. Maximum call length 63 minutes.

INDEPENDENT TEAM MARKET

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)
GOALKEEPERS																			
300	Seaman	ARS	5.9	457	Watson	EVE	2.7	550	Pearce	WIM	2.2	685	Ginola	NEW	4.2	853	Deane	LEE	3.0
303	Bosnich	AV	4.0	458	Onsworth	EVE	3.0	553	Reeves	WIM	1.8	686	Clark	NEW	3.0	854	Collymore	LIV	8.3
304	Flowers	BLA	5.2	459	Hottiger	EVE	2.2	554	Thorn	WIM	1.8	687	Woon	NOT	3.4	855	Fowler	LIV	9.5
305	Kharine	CHE	3.7	460	Hinchcliffe	EVE	1.9	555	Thatcher	WIM	2.7	688	Bart-Williams	NOT	3.6	856	Claridge	LEI	3.0
306	Hitchcock	CHE	1.5	463	Jobson	LEE	2.7					689	Stoee	NOT	5.0	857	Heskey	LEI	2.8
307	Ogrizovic	COV	2.2	464	Kelly	LEE	3.6					690	Gemmell	NOT	3.0	858	Robins	LEI	2.0
308	Filan	COV	1.5	465	Wetherall	LEE	3.5					693	Parker	LEI	2.5	859	Cantona	MU	8.1
309	Southall	EVE	3.0	466	Dorigo	LEE	3.2					694	Taylor	LEI	1.6	860	Scholes	MU	5.0
330	Martyn	LEE	3.3	467	Pemberton	LEE	1.2	600	Mersoo	ARS	4.4	695	Izzett	LEI	2.1	863	Cole	MU	6.2
333	James	LEI	4.7	468	Walsh	LEE	2.2	603	Platt	ARS	4.8	696	Waddle	SW	2.7	864	Fjortoft	MID	3.1
335	Poole	LEI	1.5	469	Grayson	LEE	2.2	604	Parlour	ARS	2.4	697	Blinker	SW	2.2	865	Ravanelli	MID	8.0
336	Houl	DER	1.6	470	Whitlow	LEE	1.2	605	Helder	ARS	3.7	698	Jones	SW	2.0	866	Barnaby	MID	6.7
337	Schmeichel	MU	5.5	473	Watts	LEE	1.6	606	Hillier	ARS	1.5	699	Hyde	SW	1.8	867	Beardsley	NEW	4.4
338	Walsh	MU	3.0	474	Babb	LIV	3.7	607	Taylor	AV	1.9	700	Magilton	SOT	2.4	868	Asprilla	NEW	7.4
339	Srinke	MU	3.7	475	Jones	LIV	2.7					703	Vanison	SW	2.7		Ferdinand	NEW	8.6
340	Hisp	NEW	3.7	476	Wright	LIV	2.8					704	Heaney	SW	2.7		Saunders	NOT	5.2
343	Crossley	NOT	2.7	477	Ruddock	LIV	4.4					705	M. Gray	SW	2.7		Roy	NOT	4.8
344	Wright	NOT	1.3	478	Scates	LIV	4.4					706	Rae	SW	2.7		Campbell	NOT	3.1
346	Pressman	SW	1.8	479	Harkness	MU	3.7					707	Agnew	SW	2.7		Blood	SW	4.4
347	Cotton	SON	1.8	480	Neville (S)	MU	3.7					708	Agnew	SW	2.7		Bright	SW	5.5
348	Walker	NOT	3.4	483	Neville (S)	MU	3.7					709	Howells	SW	2.7		Le Tissier	SOT	7.0
349	Miklosik	WH	3.0	484	Irwin	MU	4.1					733	Sinton	TOT	3.0		Shipperley	SOT	3.7
350	Sullivan	WIM	1.8	485	Pallister	MU	4.9					734	Williamson	WH	3.6		Whiston	SOT	2.2
				486	May	MU	3.0					735	Dumitrescu	WH	3.7		Kelly	SUN	2.1
				487	Vickers	MID	2.2					736	Hughes	WH	3.7		Stewart	SUN	2.3
				488	Pearson	MID	2.2					737	Mogea	WH	2.7		Sheringham	TOT	7.4
				489	Hyte	MID	2.2					738	Bishop	WH	3.0		Armstrong	TOT	7.4
				490		MID	2.2					739	Finney	WIM	2.7		Rogers	WH	2.1
				493		MID	2.2					740	Finney	WIM	2.7		Butt	WH	4.0
												741	Finney	WIM	2.7		Radcliffe	WH	5.1
												744	Finney	WIM	2.7		Dowie	WH	3.3
																	Holdsworth	WIM	4.5
																	Goodman	WIM	3.2
																			2.7
MIDFIELDERS																			
600	Mersoo	ARS	4.4	603	Platt	ARS	4.8	604	Parlour	ARS	2.4	605	Helder	ARS	3.7	606	Hillier	ARS	1.5
607	Taylor	AV	1.9	608	Taylor	AV	1.9	609	Draper	AV	4.1	610	Draper	AV	4.1	611	Draper	AV	4.1
612	Draper	AV	4.1	613	Draper	AV	4.1	614	Draper	AV	4.1	615	Draper	AV	4.1	616	Draper	AV	4.1
617	Draper	AV	4.1	618	Draper	AV	4.1	619	Draper	AV	4.1	620	Draper	AV	4.1	621	Draper	AV	4.1
622	Draper	AV	4.1	623	Draper	AV	4.1	624	Draper	AV	4.1	625	Draper	AV	4.1	626	Draper	AV	4.1
627	Draper	AV	4.1	628	Draper	AV	4.1	629	Draper	AV	4.1	630	Draper	AV	4.1	631	Draper	AV	4.1
632	Draper	AV	4.1	633	Draper	AV	4.1	634	Draper	AV	4.1	635	Draper	AV	4.1	636	Draper	AV	4.1
637	Draper	AV	4.1	638	Draper	AV	4.1	639	Draper	AV	4.1	640	Draper	AV	4.1	641	Draper	AV	4.1
642	Draper	AV	4.1	643	Draper	AV	4.1	644	Draper	AV	4.1	645	Draper	AV	4.1	646	Draper	AV	4.1
647	Draper	AV	4.1	648	Draper	AV	4.1	649	Draper	AV	4.1	650	Draper	AV	4.1	651	Draper	AV	4.1
652	Draper	AV	4.1	653	Draper	AV	4.1	654	Draper	AV	4.1	655	Draper	AV	4.1	656	Draper	AV	4.1
657	Draper	AV	4.1	658	Draper	AV	4.1	659	Draper	AV	4.1	660	Draper	AV	4.1	661	Draper	AV	4.1
662	Draper	AV	4.1	663	Draper	AV	4.1	664	Draper	AV	4.1	665	Draper	AV	4.1	666	Draper	AV	4.1
667	Draper	AV	4.1	668	Draper	AV	4.1	669	Draper	AV	4.1	670	Draper	AV	4.1	671	Draper	AV	4.1
672	Draper	AV	4.1	673	Draper	AV	4.1	674	Draper	AV	4.1	675	Draper	AV	4.1	676	Draper	AV	4.1
677	Draper	AV	4.1	678	Draper	AV	4.1	679	Draper	AV	4.1	680	Draper	AV	4.1	681	Draper	AV	4.1
682	Draper	AV	4.1	683	Draper	AV	4.1	684	Draper	AV	4.1	685	Draper	AV	4.1	686	Draper	AV	4.1
687	Draper	AV	4.1	688	Draper	AV	4.1	689	Draper	AV	4.1	690	Draper	AV	4.1	691	Draper	AV	4.1
692	Draper	AV	4.1	693	Draper	AV	4.1	694	Draper	AV	4.1	695	Draper	AV	4.1	696	Draper	AV	4.1
697	Draper	AV	4.1	698	Draper	AV	4.1	699	Draper	AV	4.1	700	Draper	AV	4.1	701	Draper	AV	4.1
702	Draper	AV	4.1	703	Draper	AV	4.1	704	Draper	AV	4.1	705	Draper	AV	4.1	706	Draper	AV	4.1
707	Draper	AV	4.1	708	Draper	AV	4.1	709	Draper	AV	4.1	710	Draper	AV	4.1	711	Draper	AV	4.1
712	Draper	AV	4.1	713	Draper	AV	4.1	714	Draper	AV	4.1	715	Draper	AV	4.1	716	Draper	AV	4.1
717	Draper	AV	4.1	718	Draper	AV	4.1	719	Draper	AV	4.1	720	Draper	AV	4.1	721	Draper	AV	4.1
722	Draper	AV	4.1	723	Draper	AV	4.1	724	Draper	AV	4.1	725	Draper	AV	4.1	726	Draper	AV	4.1
727	Draper	AV	4.1	728	Draper	AV	4.1	729	Draper	AV	4.1	730	Draper	AV	4.1	731	Draper	AV	4.1
732	Draper	AV	4.1	733	Draper	AV	4.1	734	Draper	AV	4.1	735	Draper	AV	4.1	736	Draper	AV	4.1
737	Draper	AV	4.1	738	Draper	AV	4.1	739	Draper	AV	4.1	740	Draper	AV	4.1	741	Draper	AV	4.

Stubbs happy at the hub of Celtic's regeneration

Rangers started the revolution under Graeme Souness in 1986. Ten years on Scottish football is still capable of attracting English players north of the border whether for financial gain or, in the case of Paul Gascoigne, as a means of accruing medals and other tangible souvenirs.

Alan Stubbs, the latest player to travel the high road, has been widely tipped to play for England. His decision to join Celtic in the summer in a £3.5m move from Bolton will have raised a number of eyebrows. Stubbs, who helped Bolton reach the Premiership, was seen, along with Jason McAteer, as the power behind the club's successes and was at one time expected to join Liverpool with his team-mate.

Then there was interest from Arsenal, Tottenham, Everton and even Manchester United. To choose Celtic ahead of such clubs would be considered in some quarters as sufficient cause to be locked in secure accommodation. However, the player has no regrets about the decision he made the minute he laid eyes on the rebuilt Celtic Park in the East End of Glasgow.

"I only had to come here to make up my mind. Everything was so impressive and stadium-wise Celtic are in a new dimension altogether from what I was used to," he said. "Celtic Park compares with any ground in Britain, only Manchester United and Liverpool come close, but this will be the biggest and most impressive when it's finished."

David McKinney on the English defender who is hoping to stop Rangers creating Scottish history this season

"I wanted to move from Bolton and was ready to speak to anybody who came in for me, but with the European Championships on the horizon Celtic seemed to be holding back and certainly no offers were made."

The speed and secrecy of the move surprised the football world and in particular Stubbs' team-mate, John McKinney, who called his pal on his mobile phone as he was travelling to Celtic Park to be told the defender was opening a sports shop. It was not until the next day that McKinney, a fanatical Celtic supporter, learned the truth.

"He was on the phone ranting and raving at me," Stubbs added. "But after a while he calmed down and asked me for tickets for the big games."

Immediately Stubbs has been thrown into an emotional maelstrom as Scottish football seizes itself for its most explosive season for years. The volatile mix of Old Firm rivalry and history is threatening to boil over even before the season starts as Rangers look for a ninth title which would equal Celtic's record. The Rangers supporters are already talking in terms of 10 titles with the help of Gascoigne.

The level of expectation has been further heightened with Celtic now capable of mounting a serious challenge thanks to the regeneration of the club under Fergus McCann, their chief executive. The arrival of Stubbs came just weeks before Paolo Di Canio was signed from Milan. Training sessions are attended by up to 2,000 supporters and the players have to wade through autograph hunters on their daily return to the ground. It is a lifestyle Stubbs is quickly getting used to.

The nine in a row is a really big thing for the fans. It's their number one priority ahead of

Cups or even the UEFA Cup and I'm getting to understand more and more what it means to them the more I talk to them. You can only wish for the support like we have. They love the club and for them it's a way of life. In England the supporters have feelings for their club but up here they're fanatical."

The Celtic support has risen dramatically in the last two years - from around 7,000 season tickets to almost 40,000 - lured by the promise of a seat at the new "Paradise" and of quality football. Team affairs are entrusted to Tommy Burns, the former Celtic player who has returned to take the club out of the wilderness. His influence was another factor in Stubbs' decision to sign.

"He made a big impression on me. He is softly spoken but his words carry weight. He is good with people and is still young to be a manager. I feel these times are as exciting for him as they are for us."

Burns has strengthened his side to ensure competition for places. Stubbs, who missed this week's European tie to get into the team but remains convinced his future at club and international level is in safe hands.

"I don't think coming here will harm my chances of international honours because I am playing with top players and hopefully will improve myself. My ambition is to play for England. I feel I have gone a step forward and going to Rangers



Stubbs: £3.5m transfer didn't do any harm for Paul Gascoigne's chances.

Shearer's debut gives Lincoln a lift

MARK BURTON

The trickle down effect is a fine theory but not one that convinces many chairmen of Nationwide clubs as they reel at the size of transfer fees paid out by one Premiership club to another or a foreign giant. The £15m fee it needed to take Alan Shearer from Blackburn Rovers to Newcastle United is already proving beneficial to Lincoln, who could hardly be further away from the Magpies on the league scale.

The England centre-forward's

first appearance for Newcastle, in a friendly match at the Third Division club's tiny Sincil Bank ground tonight, has brought the fans out in force. Every seat at the 10,900 capacity stadium has been sold and Lincoln will receive about £80,000, almost double their previous best.

The match, arranged as part of the £400,000 transfer of winger Darren Huckerby to Newcastle last year, has been converted by Shearer's presence from a useful bonus into something akin to a pool win for a club which was losing £10,000 a week last season.

Lincoln's manager, John Beck, has signed 16 players since joining the club in October but most have been free transfers. Shearer may feel the pressure to perform now he is the world's most expensive player, but Kevin Austin will not enjoy constantly having to impress the Imps' faithful. Beck spent his entire transfer pot, all £30,000 of it, on buying him from Leyton Orient.

Les Ferdinand, who cost a mere £5m, has had to give up the Newcastle No 9 shirt to Shearer, but is not objecting. Their first serious outing together, against Manchester United in the Charity Shield match at Wembley on Sunday, will be tough. Roy Keane has been called to play after examination of his knee injury, and Ryan Giggs and Gary Pallister are back in full training after hamstring trouble. The Norwegian centre-back Ronny Johnsen has also shrugged off a knee injury.

Rousset blocks Red Star delivery

Red Star Belgrade Heart of Midlothian

Heart of Midlothian had their French goalkeeper Gilles Rousset to thank for keeping Red Star at bay in the Cup-Winners' Cup qualifying round first leg match in Belgrade last night.

Rousset first rescued Hearts after 18 minutes with a stunning save, sticking out a leg to deny Perica Ognjenovic. However, he nearly blotted his copy book on the half-hour with a careless clearance which fell to Zoran Jovic. Luckily for the keeper, the ball went wide of the post.

The Red Star supporters became restless at their team's inability to score and in the final quarter of the first half the Yugoslav side raised the tempo and could have gone ahead twice.

Rousset made a marvellous instinctive save from the dangerous Ognjenovic after Dejan Stankovic had carved out the opening. Then Dejan Stankovic fired a shot over the top as Hearts were forced to back pedal.

Ognjenovic carved a huge hole in the Hearts defence with

a mazy run before the break only to send his shot narrowly wide of the post.

Hearts found themselves under pressure at the start of the second half and Ognjenovic again made the break for Red Star with David McPherson forced to make a hurried clearance.

Rousset was in action after 53 minutes when Ognjenovic cut inside and released a thundering shot. The keeper stood his ground and made a marvellous block.

Rousset ran to his Hearts colleagues on the final whistle swapping high fives with all of them in turn. He then applauded the small band of Hearts fans who gave him a rapturous reception and well they might. His performance could well have set up Hearts for a money-spinning first-round match.

Red Star Belgrade: Miroslav Zivkovic, Dario, Njega, P. Stankovic, Miroslav, Ognjenovic, Perica, Jovic, Bratic, Vasic, Vukobratovic, Jovic, Bratic, Vasic, Vukobratovic.

Heart of Midlothian: Rousset, Cameron, Brown, Pearson, Goss, Fyfe, McPherson, Ritchie, Watt, Subotic, Fulton, McInnes, McInnes, McInnes, McInnes.



Nick Faldo tees off yesterday watched by Tom Lehman and his caddy Andy Martinez

Caddies given short shrift over attire

It is no comfort to know that July was an unusually pleasant month in Louisville, with temperatures down to an average of 72F. August has taken its revenge. Through three days of practice, Valhalla was less like a paradise than an outdoor sauna.

But on competition day, the rulebook brings in an apartheid of apparel. Shorts may be de rigueur outside the ropes, inside they are a no-no. Yesterday was cooler than the previous couple, which meant temperatures in the high 80s rather than the mid-90s. It also meant that perspiration did not turn into a river of

sweat for at least as long as it took to complete the first hole.

Which is where officialdom descended on the feature match of the morning's play. It is a tradition at the USPGA to group together the winners of the year's three previous majors. There was no problem with Masters champion Nick Faldo, US Open champion Steve Jones or Open champion Tom Lehman, but their caddies were showing too much kneecap.

For Fanny Sumesson, Faldo's loyal attendant, her culottes are officially sanctioned, as are Nick Stricker's, wife of the American player Steve. This is a fennel of contention with

their male colleagues and Scott Jones, Steve's brother, and Andy Martinez took the opportunity for their own protest. It did not last long. In the shade of the second tee, hardly a second shot, it was off with the shorts and on with the long pants. Fanny averted her eyes.

Ironically, the jackets and ties of the Royal and Ancient of St Andrews allow both players and caddies to wear shorts - tai-

lored and with knee-length socks - at the Open. Martinez escorted Lehman to victory at sun-drenched Royal Lytham last month in a pair of white shorts.

Caddies are only allowed to wear shorts on the European Tour when it makes its geographically and climatically challenged visits to places like Thailand. They also ban jeans, which the US tour does not, although you would have to be a few yardages short of a strokesaver to be so attired at Valhalla. Players are also banned from wearing shorts on the Australian and South African tours, but it was allowable on the old Safari tour, and there is no objection on the South American tour.

A poll of the players would no doubt bring a unanimous feeling that they would like to wear shorts, but they know the rules. "Sure, we'd all like to wear shorts, but I'm not sure we're ready for that yet," said traditionalist Ben Crenshaw. Said Fuzzy Zoeller: "This is a gentleman's game. We must dress like professionals." Colin Montgomerie agreed: "It would not look professional, would it?" he said. In fact, it was Faldo who came up with the best reason a couple of years ago. "Can you imagine," Faldo pondered mischievously, "Monty in shorts?"

EVENING RACING RESULTS

HAMILTON
5.05: 1. TROPICAL BEACH (C. Llewellyn) 9-2; 2. S. 1.2; 3. 1.2; 4. 1.2; 5. 1.2; 6. 1.2; 7. 1.2; 8. 1.2; 9. 1.2; 10. 1.2; 11. 1.2; 12. 1.2; 13. 1.2; 14. 1.2; 15. 1.2; 16. 1.2; 17. 1.2; 18. 1.2; 19. 1.2; 20. 1.2; 21. 1.2; 22. 1.2; 23. 1.2; 24. 1.2; 25. 1.2; 26. 1.2; 27. 1.2; 28. 1.2; 29. 1.2; 30. 1.2; 31. 1.2; 32. 1.2; 33. 1.2; 34. 1.2; 35. 1.2; 36. 1.2; 37. 1.2; 38. 1.2; 39. 1.2; 40. 1.2; 41. 1.2; 42. 1.2; 43. 1.2; 44. 1.2; 45. 1.2; 46. 1.2; 47. 1.2; 48. 1.2; 49. 1.2; 50. 1.2; 51. 1.2; 52. 1.2; 53. 1.2; 54. 1.2; 55. 1.2; 56. 1.2; 57. 1.2; 58. 1.2; 59. 1.2; 60. 1.2; 61. 1.2; 62. 1.2; 63. 1.2; 64. 1.2; 65. 1.2; 66. 1.2; 67. 1.2; 68. 1.2; 69. 1.2; 70. 1.2; 71. 1.2; 72. 1.2; 73. 1.2; 74. 1.2; 75. 1.2; 76. 1.2; 77. 1.2; 78. 1.2; 79. 1.2; 80. 1.2; 81. 1.2; 82. 1.2; 83. 1.2; 84. 1.2; 85. 1.2; 86. 1.2; 87. 1.2; 88. 1.2; 89. 1.2; 90. 1.2; 91. 1.2; 92. 1.2; 93. 1.2; 94. 1.2; 95. 1.2; 96. 1.2; 97. 1.2; 98. 1.2; 99. 1.2; 100. 1.2; 101. 1.2; 102. 1.2; 103. 1.2; 104. 1.2; 105. 1.2; 106. 1.2; 107. 1.2; 108. 1.2; 109. 1.2; 110. 1.2; 111. 1.2; 112. 1.2; 113. 1.2; 114. 1.2; 115. 1.2; 116. 1.2; 117. 1.2; 118. 1.2; 119. 1.2; 120. 1.2; 121. 1.2; 122. 1.2; 123. 1.2; 124. 1.2; 125. 1.2; 126. 1.2; 127. 1.2; 128. 1.2; 129. 1.2; 130. 1.2; 131. 1.2; 132. 1.2; 133. 1.2; 134. 1.2; 135. 1.2; 136. 1.2; 137. 1.2; 138. 1.2; 139. 1.2; 140. 1.2; 141. 1.2; 142. 1.2; 143. 1.2; 144. 1.2; 145. 1.2; 146. 1.2; 147. 1.2; 148. 1.2; 149. 1.2; 150. 1.2; 151. 1.2; 152. 1.2; 153. 1.2; 154. 1.2; 155. 1.2; 156. 1.2; 157. 1.2; 158. 1.2; 159. 1.2; 160. 1.2; 161. 1.2; 162. 1.2; 163. 1.2; 164. 1.2; 165. 1.2; 166. 1.2; 167. 1.2; 168. 1.2; 169. 1.2; 170. 1.2; 171. 1.2; 172. 1.2; 173. 1.2; 174. 1.2; 175. 1.2; 176. 1.2; 177. 1.2; 178. 1.2; 179. 1.2; 180. 1.2; 181. 1.2; 182. 1.2; 183. 1.2; 184. 1.2; 185. 1.2; 186. 1.2; 187. 1.2; 188. 1.2; 189. 1.2; 190. 1.2; 191. 1.2; 192. 1.2; 193. 1.2; 194. 1.2; 195. 1.2; 196. 1.2; 197. 1.2; 198. 1.2; 199. 1.2; 200. 1.2; 201. 1.2; 202. 1.2; 203. 1.2; 204. 1.2; 205. 1.2; 206. 1.2; 207. 1.2; 208. 1.2; 209. 1.2; 210. 1.2; 211. 1.2; 212. 1.2; 213. 1.2; 214. 1.2; 215. 1.2; 216. 1.2; 217. 1.2; 218. 1.2; 219. 1.2; 220. 1.2; 221. 1.2; 222. 1.2; 223. 1.2; 224. 1.2; 225. 1.2; 226. 1.2; 227. 1.2; 228. 1.2; 229. 1.2; 230. 1.2; 231. 1.2; 232. 1.2; 233. 1.2; 234. 1.2; 235. 1.2; 236. 1.2; 237. 1.2; 238. 1.2; 239. 1.2; 240. 1.2; 241. 1.2; 242. 1.2; 243. 1.2; 244. 1.2; 245. 1.2; 246. 1.2; 247. 1.2; 248. 1.2; 249. 1.2; 250. 1.2; 251. 1.2; 252. 1.2; 253. 1.2; 254. 1.2; 255. 1.2; 256. 1.2; 257. 1.2; 258. 1.2; 259. 1.2; 260. 1.2; 261. 1.2; 262. 1.2; 263. 1.2; 264. 1.2; 265. 1.2; 266. 1.2; 267. 1.2; 268. 1.2; 269. 1.2; 270. 1.2; 271. 1.2; 272. 1.2; 273. 1.2; 274. 1.2; 275. 1.2; 276. 1.2; 277. 1.2; 278. 1.2; 279. 1.2; 280. 1.2; 281. 1.2; 282. 1.2; 283. 1.2; 284. 1.2; 285. 1.2; 286. 1.2; 287. 1.2; 288. 1.2; 289. 1.2; 290. 1.2; 291. 1.2; 292. 1.2; 293. 1.2; 294. 1.2; 295. 1.2; 296. 1.2; 297. 1.2; 298. 1.2; 299. 1.2; 300. 1.2; 301. 1.2; 302. 1.2; 303. 1.2; 304. 1.2; 305. 1.2; 306. 1.2; 307. 1.2; 308. 1.2; 309. 1.2; 310. 1.2; 311. 1.2; 312. 1.2; 313. 1.2; 314. 1.2; 315. 1.2; 316. 1.2; 317. 1.2; 318. 1.2; 319. 1.2; 320. 1.2; 321. 1.2; 322. 1.2; 323. 1.2; 324. 1.2; 325. 1.2; 326. 1.2; 327. 1.2; 328. 1.2; 329. 1.2; 330. 1.2; 331. 1.2; 332. 1.2; 333. 1.2; 334. 1.2; 335. 1.2; 336. 1.2; 337. 1.2; 338. 1.2; 339. 1.2; 340. 1.2; 341. 1.2; 342. 1.2; 343. 1.2; 344. 1.2; 345. 1.2; 346. 1.2; 347. 1.2; 348. 1.2; 349. 1.2; 350. 1.2; 351. 1.2; 352. 1.2; 353. 1.2; 354. 1.2; 355. 1.2; 356. 1.2; 357. 1.2; 358. 1.2; 359. 1.2; 360. 1.2; 361. 1.2; 362. 1.2; 363. 1.2; 364. 1.2; 365. 1.2; 366. 1.2; 367. 1.2; 368. 1.2; 369. 1.2; 370. 1.2; 371. 1.2; 372. 1.2; 373. 1.2; 374. 1.2; 375. 1.2; 376. 1.2; 377. 1.2; 378. 1.2; 379. 1.2; 380. 1.2; 381. 1.2; 382. 1.2; 383. 1.2; 384. 1.2; 385. 1.2; 386. 1.2; 387. 1.2; 388. 1.2; 389. 1.2; 390. 1.2; 391. 1.2; 392. 1.2; 393. 1.2; 394. 1.2; 395. 1.2; 396. 1.2; 397. 1.2; 398. 1.2; 399. 1.2; 400. 1.2; 401. 1.2; 402. 1.2; 403. 1.2; 404. 1.2; 405. 1.2; 406. 1.2; 407. 1.2; 408. 1.2; 409. 1.2; 410. 1.2; 411. 1.2; 412. 1.2; 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